



Courtesy of Adele Spencer, whose grandfather, John George Beaumont Spencer, made this frame.

# THE SPENCERS

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## From the Cotswolds to America

**Laurel Spencer Busch**

[LaurelBusch.com](http://LaurelBusch.com)

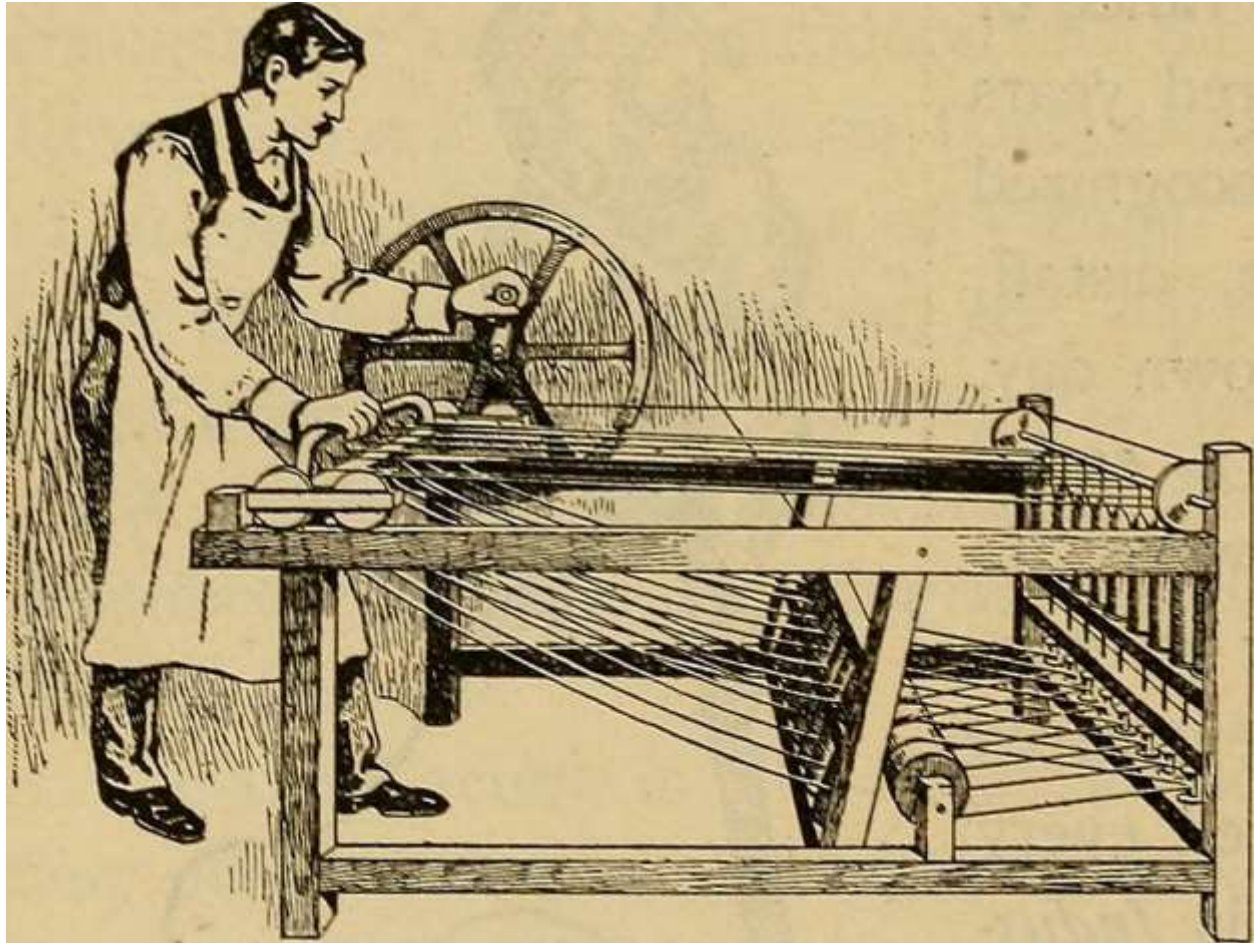
December 21, 2017



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JACOB AND HANNAH (HOWELL) SPENCER  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

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Spinning Jenny, page 673 of *Medieval and Modern Times: An Introduction to the History of Western Europe from the Dissolution of the Roman Empire to the Present Time* by James Harvey Robinson (1919). Courtesy of Internet Archive.

Jacob Spencer was born January 10, 1798, to Joel and Ann (Page) Spencer in the Cotswold town of Wotton-under-Edge in Gloucestershire, England. Joel and Ann had been married there April 5, 1795.

Jacob was baptized April 3, 1818, in the Wotton-under-Edge tabernacle a few months before he married Hannah Fowler Howell.

The tabernacle was a “nonconformist” (Calvinist Methodist or Congregational) church. “Nonconformists” were Protestant Christians who did not “conform” to the governance and usages of the Church of England. When Jacob and Hannah got married July 24, 1818, like most non-conformists between 1754 and 1837 they were required to marry in the Church of England.

Hannah, born January 31, 1797, was described in her Church of England baptism record as the “B.C.” (base or bastard child) of Mary Howell of Wotton, a wool picker. It probably is significant that Hannah’s middle name was Fowler because it was common then to add the father’s last name to an illegitimate baby’s birth record that way.

Jacob was recorded as a wool spinner as early as 1823, when his and Hannah’s son John was baptized. They had eight children, seven of whom lived to adulthood.

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### 1841–61 CENSUSES

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**I**n the 1841 census, the oldest child of Jacob and Hannah, Ann, was about 19 and working as a servant for another family in the village. Jacob, Hannah, and their other teenage children—John, George, and Eliza, ages 18, 15, and 13—were all wool spinners.

They were living in Bradley Green, a rural area near Wotton. The wool industry was in transition from homes to factories at the time, but the census does not specify where they did the wool spinning.

Their younger children—Joseph, Mary, and Rowland (ages 8, 5, and 3)—were not working.

The four older children left home between the 1841 and 1851 censuses. Ann married gardener Job Hand in 1843, John married Louisa Bennett in 1846, and George married Sarah Perrin in 1847. Ann and John married in the nonconformist tabernacle; George married in the Church of England’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Eliza went to Portishead, Somerset, to work as a house servant.

In 1851, the remaining children were living with Jacob and Hannah on The Culverhay (street) in Wotton. Hannah was a “huckster” (seller of small items) at a shop, and Jacob and their now teenage children (Joseph, Rowland, and Mary) were wool spinners in a cloth factory.

When Joseph married Mary Ann White in 1857, Jacob’s occupation was recorded as grocer. He seemed to have succeeded in moving from the working class into the middle class.

At the time of the 1861 census, Jacob and Hannah were still living on The Culverhay and both were grocers. They had signed their wedding record with Xs, which indicates they didn’t know how to read or write, but that must not have been an impediment to running a store then.

All of their children had left home although Rowland was “visiting” Jacob and Hannah at the time of the census and died the same year. (He also is shown as a visitor in his sister Ann’s household in the same census.) All of their other sons as well as Ann’s husband Job were drapers and grocers. Even Mary, who was living with her brother George, was a draper’s assistant. The man Eliza had married in Stroud in 1853, Philip James Ashmead, was a carpenter employing three men.

Throughout these years, Hannah’s mother lived alone in Wotton. “Parochial relief” is noted in the 1851 census.

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### END OF LIFE

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**H**annah died April 7, 1863. Her mother, Mary Howell, died (of “natural decay, certified”) on December 22 of that year and is buried with her son (and Mary’s brother) John Howell in the





Wotton-under-Edge Tabernacle (far right) and cemetery. Unfortunately the resolution isn't quite good enough to read the headstones. Photo courtesy of Google Maps.

tabernacle cemetery. The name of the person who was present at her death at Potter's Pond in Wotton was Elizabeth Anderson. If she was a relative, I don't have any information on it.

Jacob remarried in February 1864. Sabina Foxwell (born Sabina Vines) was the widow of Edwin Foxwell. She died in 1866.

In the 1871 census, Jacob was retired and living with his and Hannah's daughter Mary and her husband John Bryant in Stroud. He died in 1880 at the Pucklechurch home of daughter Ann and her husband.

An inscription on a monument at the Wotton-under-Edge Tabernacle (which was built in the mid-1850s to replace the one Rowland Hill built in the late 1700s) says, "In loving memory of Hannah the beloved wife of Jacob Spencer died April 7th 1863 aged 66 years. Also of the above named Jacob Spencer who died March 7th 1880 aged 82 years."

### WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

Jacob and Hannah's family lived during the Industrial Revolution and was part of the most important manufacturing industry of England at the time: woolen goods. Wool had played an important part in English history since the twelfth century, and workers did most of the work by hand in their own homes until the early 1800s. Then machinery rapidly came into use and woolen goods factories were built in Wotton and other towns in the district. Workers lost jobs as machines did most of the work. The population of Wotton grew from 3,393 in 1801 to a peak of 5,482 in 1831. It fell to 4,702 in 1841 and 4,224 in 1851.

The town's original name supposedly was "Wood Town under Ridge" as it lies beneath the western edge of the Cotswold Hills. Thus "Wotton" is pronounced like "wooden" with a *t*. And according to an elderly resident in a 1977 BBC program, the correct pronunciation is Wotton-

under-Edge, not Wotton-under-Edge.

Wotton was described in an 1863 directory as "a market town, township and parish, in the upper division of the hundred of Berkeley, Dursley union, county court district and rural deanery, archdeaconry of Gloucester, and diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, 7 miles south from Dursley, 19 south-south-west from Gloucester, and 108 west-by-north from London, and contained 3,673 inhabitants in 1861." It's about 12 miles south southwest of Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Jacob is listed as a shopkeeper on Church Street in the 1863 directory.

Wotton is famous for the longevity of its citizens, or at least it was a hundred years ago. An Elizabeth Hill

died at the age of 104 in 1864, and a Mrs. Gardiner died at age 101 in 1893.



From *Agriculture, ancient and modern: a historical account of its principles and practice, exemplified in their rise, progress, and development* by Samuel Copland, London, Virtue and Company, 1866, p. 398. Courtesy U. Mass Amherst Libraries and Boston Public Library via [Internet Archive](http://www.ancientagriculture.com).

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## JOSEPH J. SPENCER

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Joseph was born May 11, 1833. (A child born to his parents in 1831 and given the same name must have died.) He was named as Joseph J. Spencer in his wife's obituary, but I have not found that middle initial in any other records.

In the 1851 census he was 17 and—like his father, brother, and sister—was a wool spinner in a cloth factory.

Major changes in his life the next few years were unrecorded. Somehow by 1857 he had moved from working class to tradesman and was more than 80 miles east of Wotton, working as a linen draper and marrying Mary Ann White in Reading, Berkshire.

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## JAMES AND ESTHER (PAYNE) WHITE

### NEWBURY, THATCHAM, AND READING, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND

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James White was born in Brewham, Somersetshire, about 1804, and Esther/Hester Payne was born in Newbury, Berkshire, about the same time. They were married in Thatcham, Berkshire (about 5 miles from Newbury), April 2, 1826.

Their first three children—Mary Ann, George, and Matilda—were born in Newbury, and the next two—Esther and James Jr.—in Greenham, about a mile and a half from Newbury. The last four—Charles, Joseph, Ellen, and William—were born in Reading, Berkshire, about 17 miles from Newbury. They lived on Thorn Street.

Reading (pronounced “Redding”) was growing as a manufacturing town in the 1800s. It was on a canal connected with Bristol, and three railroads came to or through it.

James was a shoemaker, cordwainer, or retired shoemaker in Reading in every census beginning in 1841. He died of peritonitis June 3, 1882, and Esther died of bronchitis November 7, 1884.

### MARY ANN WHITE

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Mary Ann, James and Esther’s first child, was born about January 1827. In the 1841 census she was a 14-year-old servant in the home of Reading solicitor (lawyer) John Richards on Castle Street.

In 1851 she was 24 and a servant in the Reading home of Samuel Poulton, a chemist and druggist at 2 London Street. Mr. Poulton had a wife, five children, and two apprentices. Mary Ann and a 23-year-old woman were the only servants for the entire household.



2 London Street, Reading, 2014. It is next to the River Kennet on the right. Two other families lived to the left in the same building. Courtesy of Google Maps.

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## JOHN AND ELIZABETH (DRIVER) LEWIS BISLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

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Catswood Farm in August 2010. Courtesy of Google Maps.

John and Elizabeth were both born in Bisley, Gloucestershire, about 1800. Elizabeth's parents were Alice (Stratford) and Giles Driver, both born about 1767 in Bisley.

John was a farmer at Catswood Farm in Bisley. The 1851 census said his "rank, occupation, or profession" was "farmer of 80 acres." In the 1861 census, his "rank, occupation, or profession" was "farmer 90 acres employing two men and one boy." In 1820 and 1824 land tax records, he's shown as an "occupier" with a couple of different men as "proprietor"; in other words, he did not own the farm, but he was better off than an agricultural laborer.

English farmers in the mid-1800s grew potatoes, turnips, corn, barley, oats, and wheat. They used horses to pull plows and used little farm machinery even though it was becoming available.

John and Elizabeth had two boys and seven girls—John, Caroline, Charlotte, David, Alice, Eliza, Elizabeth, Harriet, and Sarah—born from 1826 to 1842. John Jr. was with a wife named Lucy in Deptford St. Paul, Surrey, in the



The farmhouse and gateposts have been here since the 1600s. Photo courtesy of Google Maps.

1851 census. Caroline married William Blackwell, a laborer on the Catswood Farm, in 1844. Charlotte married Joseph Blackwell in 1854, and they moved to Monroe County, New York, USA, soon after.

I could not find much more about their other daughters. I found Harriet living with and working as a house servant for the Ayers family in Stroud in the 1851 census. She was only 11. Sarah Ann married Charles Cook in 1859.

Sometime between the 1861 and 1871 censuses, John and Elizabeth apparently moved to Sarah Ann's home in Walkleywood, a hamlet in Horsley, Gloucestershire. Elizabeth died there on January 25, 1870. She was 70 years old and died of "chronic inflammation of the brain." Almost a year later, John died in Walkleywood on January 12, 1871, of "chronic disease of the brain."

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## BISLEY

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**B**isley is described in an 1863 directory as a parish and village 4 miles east of Stroud. According to the directory, many Roman remains were found in the area.

The population of the Bisley parish in 1861 was 4,092.

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## DAVID LEWIS

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**D**avid was born at Catswood Farm about 1832 and worked there until after he married Lydia Watts and started his family.

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## SAMUEL AND ELEANOR (BUCKLAND) WATTS MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE, AND STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

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Samuel and Eleanor were born in Melksham, Wiltshire, England, in the 1790s and were married there in 1815. Samuel was a weaver of woolen cloth.

Two sons—Joseph and Samuel—were born in Melksham in 1817 and 1819, and their four daughters—Harriet, Mary Ann, Lydia, and Ella (or Emma)—were born in Calne, Wiltshire, from 1824 to 1839. They also had a son named Stephen born in 1836, but he was no longer with the family in the 1851 census.

At least some of the family lived in Bisley, Gloucestershire, for a time. Their daughter Lydia married David Lewis of the Catswood Farm there in 1850. In the 1851 and 1861 censuses, Samuel and Eleanor were living in nearby Stroud.

Eleanor died December 26, 1867, at age 70 in Slad, Painswick, near Stroud. The cause of death (which was “certified”) was “natural decay.” Although the death certificate gives her occupation as “wife of Samuel Watts weaver,” she was a weaver herself. Samuel was the information provider for the death certificate, and he signed with his “mark”—an X.

In the 1871 census, Samuel was living in Slad with Elizabeth Watts, a 33-year-old widow born in Bisley. She must have married one of Samuel and Eleanor’s sons while they were living there. Samuel died November 17, 1872, of old age (not certified) at the home of his daughter Lydia and son-in-law David Lewis, who also had moved to Stroud. The informant for his death was David and Lydia’s son Charles, who also signed with an X, even though he was about 15 years old. (He eventually became a successful tailor in Stroud.)

### MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE

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An 1834 book describes Melksham as

a large manufacturing town, situated on the river Avon, ninety-six miles west from London and about seven miles south from Chippenham, on the same river. It consists principally of one long street, on the acclivity of an eminence, the houses of which are chiefly built of soft free-stone. ... The chalybeate and saline aperient springs near the town have attracted much popularity to the neighbourhood. Melksham gives name to the hundred in which it is situated, although Trowbridge may be considered the chief town with respect to population.

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LYDIA WATTS

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Lydia was born about 1827 in Calne, Wiltshire, but she was living on Catswood Farm in Bisley, Gloucestershire, when she married David Lewis (who had lived on the farm all his life) in 1850.

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## JOSEPH J. AND MARY ANN (WHITE) SPENCER SLIMBRIDGE AND STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

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If only we knew exactly what the wool spinner and the house servant did between the 1851 and 1861 censuses! The only documentation we have for that time is their marriage in the Baptist Kings-Road Chapel in Reading, Berkshire, February 26, 1857.

How did they meet? The wedding record says Joseph was a linen draper living at Wokingham, about 7 miles east of Reading; perhaps he came to a house where Mary Ann worked as a servant to install draperies. What was he doing more than 80 miles away from Wotton-under-Edge and his family? And why was Mary Ann still unmarried at 29? Joseph was only 23.

They apparently moved to the hamlet of Cambridge within Slimbridge (spelled "Slymbridge" in places), Gloucestershire, soon after their wedding, because all of their children were born there beginning about 1858. By the time of the 1861 census, Joseph was both a grocer, as his parents now were in Wotton, and a draper. Slimbridge is about 9 miles north of Wotton.

They were still in Cambridge at the time of the 1871 census, but they apparently moved to Stroud (about 10 miles to the east) soon afterward.

### STROUD

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J. Spencer's Boots and Shoes (and the family's living quarters) at 9 & 10 High Street, Stroud.

From Stroud Valley Illustrated, 1902-1903. Scan by Marion Hearfield at [stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk).

**J. Spencer's** Boot, Shoe, Leather and Upper Warehouse, . . . . .  
Established 1832. 9 & 10, High Street, STROUD.

Ladies', Genl.'s and Children's **Boots and Shoes** always in Stock or made to order.

Kips, Shoe Butts, Kids, Calf, Leather, always in Stock.

Sole Butts or Bends in great variety.

Half Soles, Soles, or Ranges cut to order.

Sometime between April 2, 1871, when the census was taken, and January 19, 1872, when the family joined the Baptist Church on John Street, the family moved from Cambridge (Slimbridge) to Stroud. Joseph began a new trade in the process, buying the boot and shoe shop at 9 and 10 High Street from James Bailey. Was Mary Ann's shoemaker father involved in this venture?

"Mr. Joseph J. Spencer . . . was for many years an esteemed tradesman in the town, having carried on the business of a boot and shoe manufacturer in High Street, Stroud." This description in Mary Ann's obituary is the only place I've seen the initial J used for him.

He operated the business for more than 30 years. He employed men to make boots and shoes and sold them in his shop. The family lived at the same address.

Joseph's granddaughter remembered many years later, "My mother [daughter-in-law Sarah Lewis Spencer] told us often, Granpa made HER shoes. He liked to, because she had such a small foot." Sarah Spencer also often told her children that Joseph was "a wonderful man."

In 1877 he was elected to the position of deacon in the Baptist Church. He was re-elected at each successive period until the last, when he had to decline the office because of his health. At that time he was appointed an elder of the church. He also was superintendent for the Girls' School from 1874 to 1892 and the entire school from 1892 to 1896.

One of his obituaries says, "He was a total abstainer, and was deeply interested in temperance and Band of Hope work." Band of Hope was a British organization formed to teach children the importance and principles of sobriety and teetotalism.

The same obituary says, "He was all his life distinguished for his kindly sympathy with the young. . . . His addresses to young people were always marked by vivacity and buoyancy, and there was an attractive atmosphere of earnestness and love in all his relations with the Sunday School."

This assessment is interesting in light of his apparent relationships with a couple of his sons. Opie's great-granddaughter says that he ran away and joined the navy when he was very young. (I have not found him in the 1881 census.) One of the daughters of Joseph and Mary Ann's son Joseph (Tyndal) told me, "Our mother told us my Dad did not behave himself as his mother wanted and she gave him money to come to the U.S.A. so he would not disgrace her there as she was quite a prude."

The obituary says, "No one exerted a more helpful and uplifting influence in the gatherings for prayer. He was 'a great Christian.' He lived for Christ. Even his customers in the



Mary Ann (White) Spencer, 1870s. Dated by Jayne Shrimpton.

country, when they were sick, would ask him to come in and pray for them.” The reverend who conducted his funeral said, “They all felt that there was in him a real conception of the presence of God in prayer. He longed for the conversion of sinners, and his house in Cemetery Road [after he retired] was an ideal Christian home.” Perhaps Opie and Joseph T. felt uncomfortable living with him.

By the time of the 1881 census, Joseph was a shoemaker employing six men and a boy. Only three of their children were still at home—Annie, an assistant in the shop; Albert, a 17-year-old pupil-teacher; and Tyeth, a draper’s apprentice.

Jacob had married Emma Welsford in 1879, and they had a daughter. He was working as a shoemaker. John had married Alice Robinson in 1879 and was working as a carpenter. Joseph T., already a journeyman painter at age 20, had married Sarah Lewis in 1878 and had a 2-year-old daughter. All were still living in Stroud. Joseph and Mary Ann’s youngest child, Louisa, had died of bronchitis in 1875 at age 4.

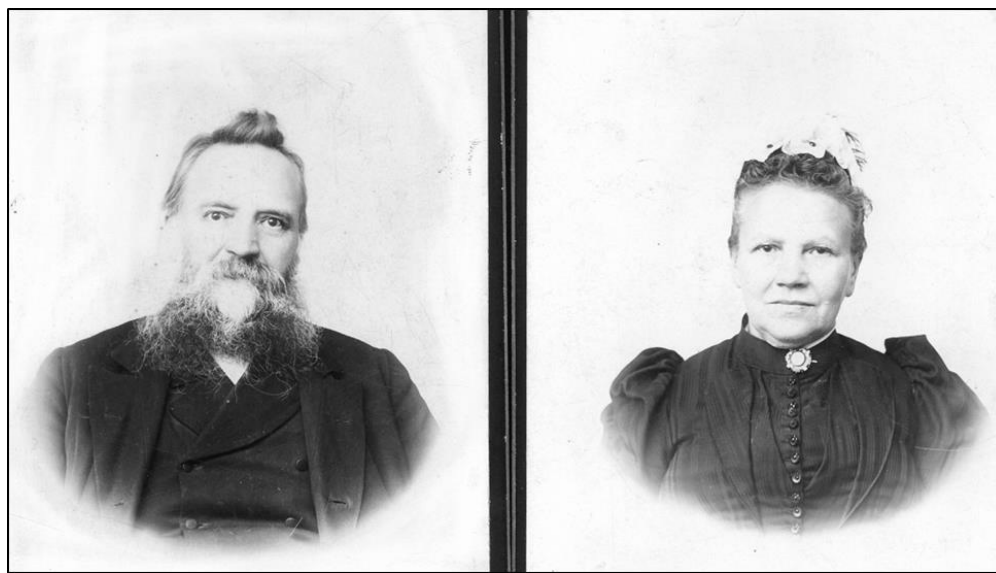


John George Beaumont Spencer. Courtesy of Adele Spencer.

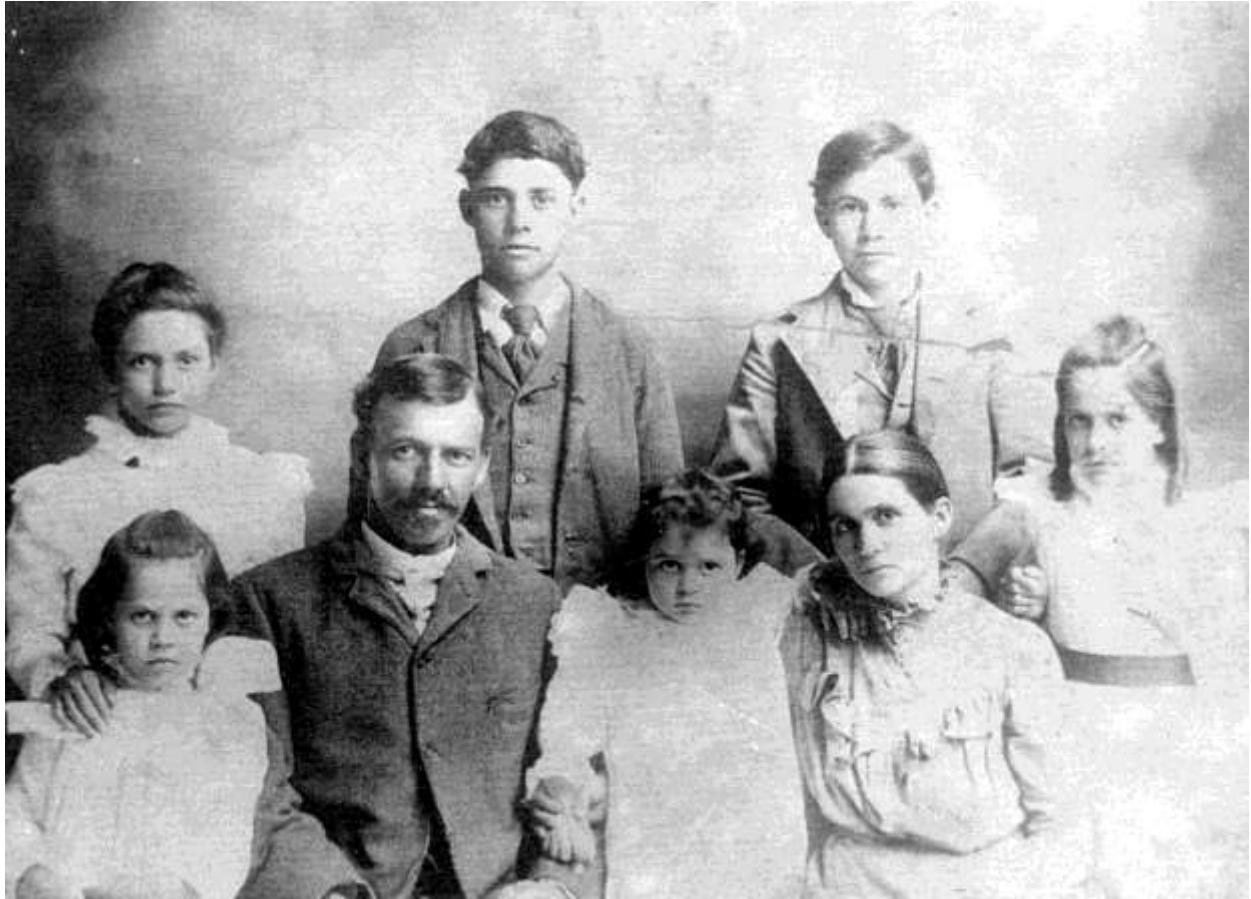


Tyeth Spencer

Although the 1881 census shows the family living at 11 and 12 High Street, I believe that’s a mistake. It shows someone else (shoemaker John H. Handley) living at No. 9, and No. 10 uninhabited. (Handley had a boot and shoe business at No. 7.) There was a pharmacy at 11 High Street during those years, and Joseph Spencer is shown at 9 and 10 High Street in the 1879 Post Office Directory and the 1885 Kelly’s Directory. The same directories show the pharmacist at No. 11 and a “beer retailer” at No. 12, but the 1881 census shows the pharmacist at No. 13 and an “eating and beer house keeper” at No. 14.



Joseph and Mary Ann Spencer, April 1893



Opie and Millicent (Russell) Spencer and family in Missouri, USA. Courtesy of Carol Spencer Oldroyd.  
Scanned from a photocopy.

Jacob and Emma had another son in 1882 and moved to Reading, Berkshire, where they had another son and two daughters. Jacob was an agent for a parcel delivery company there.

Opie returned, and he emigrated with Joseph T. and his family to the United States in the spring of 1882. Joseph settled in Chicago, where he continued his painting and papering work. Opie went back to England for a time. He married Millicent Russell in 1883, and their first child was born in Stroud in 1884. He then came back to the United States with his family. The rest of their children were born in Missouri, and they then moved to Kansas City, Kansas, for the rest of their lives.

John and his wife also emigrated to the United States about that time. For a few years they lived in Chicago, where they had two children. However, Alice and the children died and John moved to New Jersey and married Flora Ellsworth Young. John and Flora had a couple more children. By then he was going by his second name, George.

Hannah (Annie) married engineer's clerk Frederick Avens in 1888, and Tyeth married Lydia Bryant (his cousin and daughter of Joseph's sister Ann Spencer Bryant) in 1889. In the 1891 census, he was in Warwickshire with his wife and baby daughter.

Albert married Marian Davenport in 1890 and became the headmaster at Ebley School. They had a baby in 1892, but at the end of the year both Albert and the baby died of typhoid. Marian did not remarry.



According to one of his obituaries, Joseph was a Liberal in politics and participated in the passive resistance movement against the Education Act (also known as the Balfour Act) in the first few years of the twentieth century.

Passed by the Conservative party, the Act provided funds for denominational religious instruction in voluntary elementary schools, owned primarily by the Church of England and Roman Catholics, to end the divide between voluntary schools and schools provided and run by elected school boards. It was opposed by Methodists, Baptists, and other "nonconformists" (Protestant Christians who did not "conform" to the governance and usages of the Church of England) outraged at support for Anglican and Catholic schools and angry at losing their powerful role on school boards.

Nonconformist opposition was championed by John Clifford, who formed the National Passive Resistance movement in hopes of convincing more nonconformists to resist the Act and stop paying their rates until it was repealed. Joseph and others resisted by refusing to pay the full amount of their taxes in 1903 and 1904 and were ordered in police court to do so.

Opposition to the Act came especially from The Liberal Party, and it was a major issue in the election of 1906. It developed into a major political issue, which contributed significantly to the Liberal Party defeating the Conservatives in the general election in 1906.



I believe this is Hannah (Spencer) Avens and daughter Dorothy with Joseph and Mary Ann Spencer about 1909.  
Dated by Jayne Shrimpton.

## END OF LIFE

Joseph retired from his boot- and shoe-making business about 1904, selling it to Milward & Sons. He and Mary Ann moved to 3 Winchcombe Villas (or Houses—I've seen both) on Bisley Road in Stroud.

He died about five years later, on June 2, 1909. From one of his obituaries:

He had been for a long time in failing health, and some seven weeks ago suffered from a slight paralytic seizure. He recovered from this, however, in a remarkable way, and on May 9th was in his accustomed place in the Chapel. His energy showed itself, too, in his frequent visits to his garden, where he would spend an hour planting or trimming, when ninety nine men in a hundred would have regarded

themselves as unfit to leave the house. But weakness increased, and although he continued to come downstairs until the end of last week, the symptoms grew more grave, and he passed away peacefully at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

His well-attended funeral opened with one of his favorite hymns, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." Another of his favorites sung at the service was "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind."

Joseph's brother John's widow, Fanny, was living with Mary Ann in the 1911 census. Mary Ann lived until the age of 92.

"Like her husband, Mrs. Spencer was a faithful worker in connection with the John Street Baptist Chapel, of which she had been for many years a member," one of her obituaries says. "Her services at special meetings and bazaars were always willingly given and greatly appreciated. Of a lovable disposition, the deceased was much respected by a large circle of friends."



Joseph and Mary Ann Spencer

It adds, “Mrs. Spencer was at all times bright and cheerful and she was active right to the last, which was as she had desired, having often expressed a desire that when the time came for her to depart from this life she would still be in harness.” But this statement makes me wonder: “[She] seemed to be living over again the best years of her life, recalling with evident pleasure things consecrated with that place of worship and the family, all of which seemed to be of a cheerful nature.”

She seemed to be living in the present in a letter she wrote to her son (John) George’s widow during World War I, a few years before her death. She wrote about working in her garden and expressed concern about the war in France and injured soldiers arriving in Stroud by train to be cared for in the Red Cross hospital. Her daughter Annie’s son, Jack Avens, had signed up for the English army as a clerk.

Another obituary said she had been failing for some time before her death on October 18, 1919.

Both she and Joseph were buried in the Baptist chapel burying ground in London Road, which by then was being used for only very old members of the church. The cemetery has since been purchased and built over; if you’re ever in Stroud and want to see where it used to be, find the Camden House on London Road. The original owner of Camden House removed the grave monuments and terraced the site in the 1950s.

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### JOSEPH TYNDAL SPENCER I

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Joseph’s father called him Tyndal; that might have been how the family distinguished between the father and son.

Joseph. T. said he was named after the Tyndal who had the statue made of him, because he was born on the day it was erected. This story presumably refers to the William Tyndale monument built on a hill above North Nibley in 1866, but that was six years after Joseph T.’s birth. Tyndale, who was born in 1494 in the area, translated the Bible into English, promoted Protestant reform, and died a martyr in 1536.



Tyndale Monument. From Tait, *Wotton-under-Edge*. Courtesy Hathi Trust.

Joseph was indentured to a painting and wallpapering firm in England for seven years. He must have started when he was 13, not long after the family moved to Stroud, because he was a journeyman by the time of the 1881 census, when he was 20. His youngest daughter said he was very proud of his indenture papers; his daughters and granddaughters had the indenture papers for years, but I have never seen them and don’t know whether they still exist.

Another of Joseph’s grandsons said he was a “teenage delinquent, drank a lot,” and “had a lot of trouble.” One can imagine the conflict between a son who drank a lot and a father who was a “total abstainer” and locally prominent temperance advocate who tried to teach children sobriety and teetotalism.

Joseph was over 6 feet tall and had straight, light hair, a straight mustache (at least later in life), and greenish eyes.

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### CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND PRINCESS DI

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Are we related to Charlie Chaplin? Not that I know of. I've heard from many relatives that we are, but so far I have not been able to figure out how. Joseph Spencer's brother Opie's family passed down the same story, which makes me think there must be something to it. Sometimes the story was accompanied by a warning that it was hush-hush.

Charlie Chaplin's real name was Charles Spencer Chaplin. According to most of the information I've found, his parents were Charles Chaplin and Hannah Hill, both music hall entertainers. He was born in Walworth, London, England, April 16, 1889.

That rules out the family story that Florence Spencer, Joseph and Sarah's oldest daughter, was his mother. The Spencer family had moved to Chicago in 1882 when Florence was a toddler. Another possibility is my great-grandfather's sister Hannah/Annie, born about 1863, but she married an engineer's clerk named Fred Avens in Stroud in 1888 and gave birth to their first child (a daughter) at the end of 1889.

Wikipedia does say that Chaplin's mother was the daughter of a shoemaker. But if his father's name was Charles Spencer Chaplin, Sr., then the Spencer name came from his father's side of the family, not his mother's.

So what was the origin of the Spencer family story? Was Charlie Chaplin's father's mother a Spencer? Or did more than one Spencer notice the movie star's middle name and make up an exciting story for the kids, complete with a warning not to tell anyone because it wasn't true? I'd love to know.

As for Princess Di, her Spencer ancestors were earls in Northamptonshire. Our Spencer ancestors were wool spinners in Gloucestershire.

Remember—Spencer is a common name.

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## DAVID AND LYDIA (WATTS) LEWIS BISLEY AND STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

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David and Lydia were married in Bisley, Gloucestershire, July 9, 1850. Lydia, who had been born in Calne, Wiltshire, was living at David's father's farm, Catswood, in Bisley. Her parents, Samuel and Eleanor (Buckland) Watts, had moved from Wiltshire to Stroud (a larger town a few miles from Bisley) by the time of the 1851 census.

The marriage entry states that David was "not of full age" (21) but Lydia was. He was about 18 and she was about 23.

David was described as an agricultural laborer at Catswood in the 1851 and 1861 censuses. Lydia's occupation was dress maker. Their four children—Alice, John, Charles, and Sarah—were all born there. Their specific address in Sarah's baptism record and in the 1861 census was Catswood Green.

In the second half of the 1800s, many laborers left farms to work in towns. Farmers were going bankrupt after being hit by a series of wet summers, outbreaks of animal diseases, and importation of huge quantities of wheat from America, frozen meat from South America and Australia, and live cattle from the Continent. David and Lydia moved to Stroud between 1861 and 1871. During the same period, David's parents left Catswood to live with his sister Sarah Ann. Perhaps David's employment at Catswood ended when his father's did.

David and Lydia lived on Bisley Old Road in Stroud, where David worked as a laborer and coal carter.

Their son John became a carpenter and married Dorcas Driver in King's Stanley (near Stroud) in 1874. Charles married Annie Elizabeth Warner in 1875, and they had a large family. He was a tailor and she was a "tailoress." Alice married Arthur Seymore in 1876. They were both wool cloth workers. Sarah married Joseph T. Spencer in 1878, and they emigrated to the USA.

In 1891, David was described as an agricultural laborer again. In 1901, he and Lydia were living with their daughter Alice and her husband at Lower Lypiatt Terrace on Horns Road in Stroud and he did not have an occupation. He died in 1910 after suffering from chronic cystitis (inflammation of the bladder) for 10 years.

Lydia died there at age 96 of "senile decay" (certified) on November 8, 1922.

## SARAH E. LEWIS

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Some in the family say her middle name was Eleanor. However, it is "Ellen" in the family Bible and her marriage record, "Ellenna" in the FreeBMD birth index, and "Helena" in her Church of England baptism record. Her grandmother's name was Eleanor, so perhaps Sarah used that at times.

A few years after she was born on Catswood Farm in Bisley on March 22, 1858, her family moved to Stroud. She grew up there and began working in a factory when she was 12.

I have never seen a photo of her as a young woman, but I've been told she had dark hair. She was so much shorter than her husband that when he would hold his arm out she could walk under it.

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## JOSEPH TYNDAL AND SARAH (LEWIS) SPENCER GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ILLINOIS, AND WISCONSIN

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### STROUD

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Joseph and Sarah both grew up in Stroud although probably not together. He was the son of a tradesman, and she was the working class daughter of a laborer. They were united in marriage in 1878, though, when he was 17 and she was 20. Their first child was born a month and a half later.

One of his grandsons said he “drank and messed off a lot so he was sent to America by his parents.” His daughter said, “Our mother told us my Dad did not behave himself as his mother wanted and she gave him money to come to the U.S.A. so he would not disgrace her there as she was quite a prude.”

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### CHICAGO

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The family—Joseph, Sarah, and children Florence and Walter—as well as Joseph’s younger brother, Opie, left England from the port of Bristol and arrived at Castle Garden in New York City about a week later on April 5, 1882. They traveled in steerage on the steamship Dorset.

I don’t know how they chose Chicago, but as far as I know they went directly there.

Joseph and Sarah had eight more children in Chicago: Lottie, 1883; Milleyson, 1885; Kate (Kittie), 1887; Joseph, 1890; Frank, 1892; Ralph, 1894; Ethel, 1896; and Blanche, 1898.

Joseph worked as a painter and paper hanger for a contractor and also had similar jobs on the side. He worked in the homes of Chicago millionaire meat packers such as the Armours, Swifts, and Cudahys when they moved off Michigan Avenue to the suburbs. He would take sample books out to his clients when they moved and was a very good salesman. He’d mark up the wallpaper quite a bit, his daughter said.

He kept his paints in the family's outdoor toilet; when he needed some, he’d mix the colors with white lead.





Palace of Fine Arts, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893. Courtesy of Internet Archive.

He helped decorate the ceilings of the Palace of Fine Arts at the World's Columbian Exposition in gold leaf. The exposition, also called a world's fair, was held along the shore of Lake Michigan in Chicago in 1893. The building was reduced to its steel skeleton and brick interior walls and rebuilt in stone during the late 1920s; it now houses the Museum of Science and Industry.

Sarah was an Episcopalian (tied to Church of England). Joseph, of course, was raised as a Baptist, and they were married in the Baptist church in Stroud where Joseph's father was a deacon. They attended the Methodist Church in Chicago. Joseph and Sarah used to tell Bible stories to the kids. One of their daughters said, "I myself got more religious training at home than in church." Joseph would recite verses, and Sarah would observe all the Episcopalian religious days and explain their meanings to the children.

She read old English stories to her children. "My mother, who made a story come to life," her daughter said, "read many books to us. We used to beg her to read more. Now, we were all old enough to read the books ourselves, but they were so much more interesting when Ma read them."

Sarah was a very particular housekeeper. She would shine her stove until you could see your face in it. The kids were only allowed to play in the kitchen; the living room was always spotless. She also sewed beautifully.

Joseph became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1896, which made Sarah a U.S. citizen as well.

The family lost two children to diphtheria. Lottie Alice Beatress, born in 1883, died of it in 1886. Joseph Albert, born in 1890, also died of it when he was almost 3 years old.

Florence, the oldest, was twenty years older than Blanche, the youngest. Blanche remembered Santa Claus coming at Christmas and didn't learn until many years later that it had been Florence in the Santa Claus suit. "Florence was short and stocky and made a perfect Santa," she said.

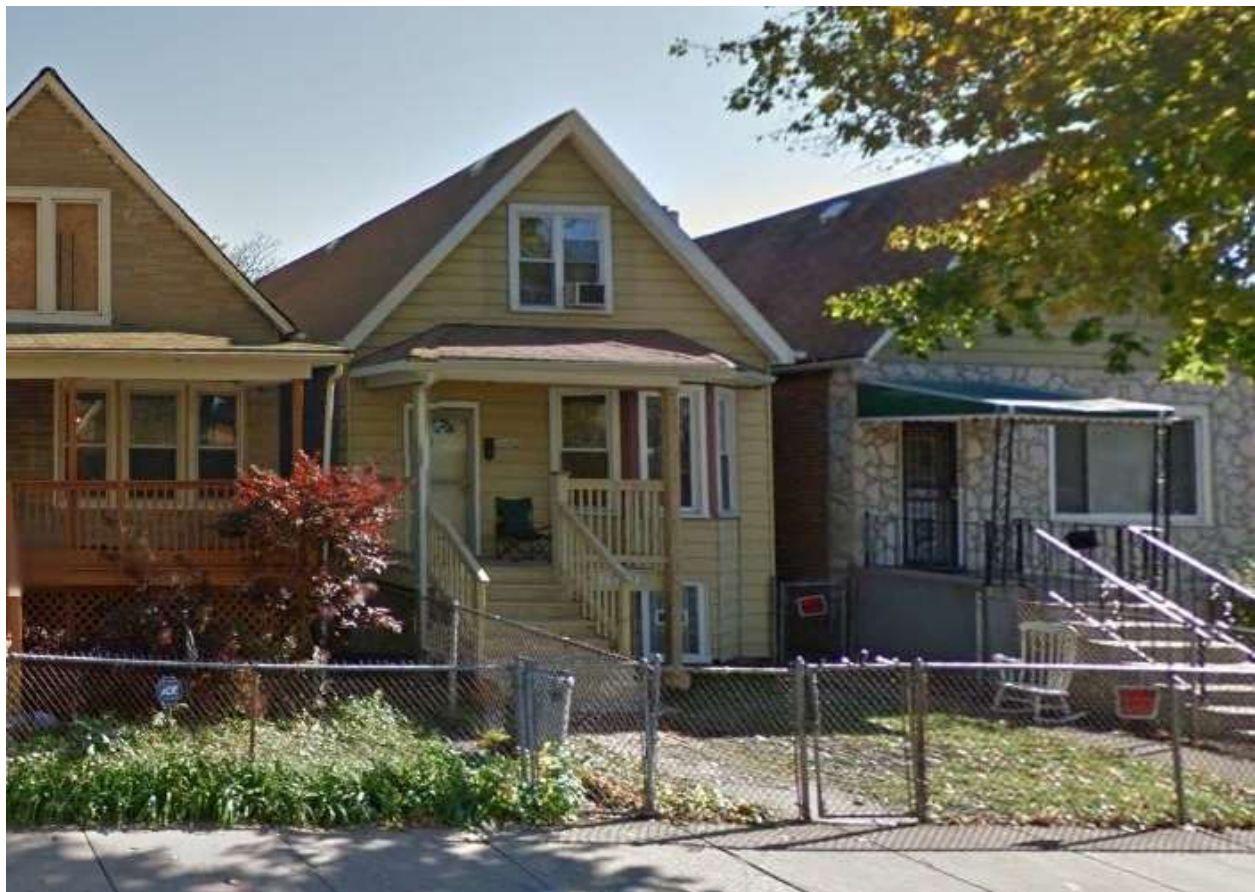
City directories showed the family changing addresses frequently until about 1902, when they bought a two-story house at 7329 South May Street. Their youngest daughter later described it as "lovely." I was surprised to learn on Zillow that the house is 720 square feet and the lot is 3,125 square feet (0.07 acre).

Three of the older children married between 1903 and 1906. Florence married bookkeeper Fred Biehl in 1903, and they lived across the street from Joseph and Sarah. He was as short as Florence was.

Walter married Kathryn (Kittie) Kiefer in 1905. Walter's sister Blanche remembered when he brought her home: "She was such a tall, nice, stately lady. She gave Ethel and I our first and only boughten doll. It was a kid body doll with a baroque head. She was lovely!" Walter was a manager at an electric company.

Blanche and Ethel would walk with their big sister Kate (also called Kittie) to meet Kittie's boyfriend, Frank Klecka, two blocks from home. (Kittie's little sister, Blanche, wrote that they walked to St. Caroline, but I believe she was thinking of 63<sup>rd</sup> and Halsted, "the busiest corner on the south side" according to a postcard near that the time. St. Caroline's Court was a hotel about 10 miles away from South May Street but a couple of blocks from Blanche and her husband's home in 1920.) Frank would always have a stick of gum or a piece of candy for Blanche and Ethel. However, Kittie's mother didn't think he was good enough for her because his parents were from Bohemia. They married anyway in 1906.

Blanche said Kittie and Frank lived upstairs in their parents' Chicago house after they were married, but that couldn't have been for long because Joseph and Sarah sold it and moved to Wisconsin the same year. (It also would have been crowded in the 720-square-foot house.) Kittie Klecka was a good singer, and when her dad was drunk he always had to have her sing the songs of the day. Frank was a good singer, too. In the 1910 census they were living with Walter and Kittie and Frank was an electrician.



7329 South May Street, Chicago, November 2015. Courtesy of Google Maps.



Millie was with William Rasmussen, but the details of their relationship during that time are vague. He was a machinist in railroad shops.

Joseph always said he would retire by age 50. As that milestone approached, land speculators were heavily marketing cutover timber lands in northern Wisconsin as farmland to naïve Chicagoans (see “Stump Farming” section). “I don’t think my mother was very interested but my father was all for it,” their daughter Blanche said.

In 1906 (when he was about 46), Joseph bought 40 acres in northern Wisconsin, and he, Sarah, and their unattached children moved up there.

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ATHELSTANE, WISCONSIN

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Early in October 1906, Joseph, Frank, and Ralph went ahead to the 40 acres Joseph had bought west of the town of Athelstane, Wisconsin (northwest corner of section 17, Township 34 North, Range 19 East). He rented a box car and filled it with furniture, a team of horses, rabbits, pigeons, chickens, and the boys. Frank and Ralph hid among the furniture whenever the train was stopped, but they would come out between stops.

When they reached their property, they borrowed a tent, put it up, and stored most of the furniture in it. Then Joseph sent for Sarah, Ethel, and Blanche.



Joseph T. Spencer in  
the 1910s

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THE RELUCTANT PIONEER

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When they all got to Athelstane, they lived in the tent for a few months while Joseph and a helper built a one-room log cabin. Sarah “nearly had a fit,” Blanche said. Although most of the furniture was stored in the tent, the stoves were left out in the weather to rust. They moved the tent into the cabin for warmth while it was being built.

The toilet at first was a fallen log in the woods with leaves for toilet paper. “My mother was having a hard time adjusting to that kind of living, but us four kids were having the time of our life,” Blanche said.

Joseph cut logs in the woods to build the cabin, but he had to go to a sawmill 17-19 miles away to buy lumber for the roof, windows, and so on. That was a day’s trip with a horse and wagon.

They began living in the cabin while it still had a dirt floor. Sarah, a “very particular housekeeper” in Chicago, used to rake the dirt.

She would fight with Joseph over his not wanting to spend money on the house. Later he did put in partitions, which he never finished, and a wood floor, which still had holes



Sarah Spencer, July 1913. Scanned from a photocopy  
provided by Deborah Seehawer Unger.

in it. When he inherited money from one of his parents (probably his mother in 1919), he used it to build a barn.

Ralph, Ethel, and Blanche traveled to school in an open wagon or sled (depending on the weather) driven by Ralph. It could be very cold; one day they arrived at school and learned it was 42 degrees below zero. The teacher took off their coats and shoes and rubbed their feet with her apron. Their lunches had frozen solid, and they had to put their lunch pails next to the wood-burning stove to thaw out.

At those times, their house was covered with white frost. Blanche claimed it was fun digging paths in the snow to the barn, water pump, chicken coop, and so on. She said many times the paths looked like canals.

The second winter they lived in Athelstane, Joseph returned to Chicago to work. He had to go back to Chicago every winter for a while to make money painting and hanging wallpaper to pay taxes and other expenses. At least one time (1915) he rented a house in town for his family while he did that. And at least one year (1912) Sarah and the girls went to Chicago to spend the summer.

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### STUMP FARMING

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Sarah Spencer near cabin, about 1913. Note the stumps in the background.

If the tens of thousands of people from outside Wisconsin who bought cutover land in the northern counties in the belief they could successfully farm it were victims, Joseph and Sarah were victims. These new settlers had been promised the same kind of success homesteaders in the Midwest—or even other parts of Wisconsin—had found.

Chicago newspapers at the time were full of boosterish articles about northern Wisconsin and ads for companies selling land there. I found a full page of it in the October 5, 1905, issue of the *Chicago Inter Ocean*. Here are some excerpts from an article with the headline “Marinette County, Means Prosperity to the Homeseeker, as Much So as It Did to the Lumberman”:



- This “Garden Spot of Wisconsin” gave much to the lumberman, but it has far more to give to the man with the plow.
- The average yield per acre for cereals far exceeds that of the high-priced lands in older states, both in quantity and quality. The same can be said of root crops.
- As for dairying and stock raising there is no better county on earth. Grasses never winter kill and pastures remain green until snow falls.
- Severe storms have never visited this section.

The article does not mention the short growing season, blizzards, or tree stumps covering the land.

A similar page in the October 26, 1905, issue had an article headlined “Cut-Over Lands Are Now High in Favor. Homeseekers Find Soil of Northern Wisconsin Equal to Any Demands for Crop Raising—Good Farms at Low Prices Still to Be Had.” Some excerpts:

- “Back to the timbered land” is the trend of the land movement of today.
- The fertility of timber land has been rediscovered.
- Chances for making farms and homes . . . are far superior to any that the prairie regions have ever afforded.
- The clay and sand loams of northern Wisconsin, where great pines once grew, [are] almost ideal in their constituents for all around crop farming.
- This sandy soil . . . is what is called “warm” soil, and crops mature more readily on it than on heavy black soils of “cold” constituency. This neutralizes the latitude and makes it practicable to raise almost any of the farm crops with good success and only the slightest danger of frost catching them before maturity.
- Timber farms are a proposition good enough for anybody who wants to work.

The last item is probably the only true statement. They certainly provided plenty of work.



Joe Spencer with his horses, his home, and his stumps. Undated but probably about 1913.

Did Joseph consult impartial parties before deciding to take a chance on a farm in northern Wisconsin? Perhaps he relied on the Wisconsin Board of Immigration. Established in 1895, it distributed promotional literature and participated in marketing activities like sponsoring an exhibit in a train car that traveled through Illinois in 1906. There's an article about the car on the page described above.

Or perhaps he read *Northern Wisconsin: A Handbook for the Homeseeker*, written by William A. Henry, dean of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, in 1895. It contained staged photos that supposedly showed the farming potential of the land. The state distributed 50,000 copies of it.

Joseph ended up buying land sold by Charles Rollins, a Chicago businessman who bought and sold thousands of acres in Wisconsin through his Intervale Land Co. Rollins owned the Intervale Farm near Athelstane but used live-in managers to run it.

Joseph did not know anything about farming. He did not have the proper tools and used a sword from England out in the fields.

He would order new and exotic plants out of the seed catalogs. One time he called everyone out to see a mysterious new spiky plant. It turned out to be asparagus.

The people in town used to tell him he had "woman's hands" because he always kept his nails clean. He was vain about his hair, too—he'd part it and push it toward the part to create a wave.



Joe Spencer, date unknown



Visitors from Chicago, 1913. Joe (with pipe) and Sarah (with hat) behind Fred and Florence (Spencer) Biehl, Bert Biehl, Blanche and Ethel Spencer. On the right, Kittie (holding Delores Biehl) and Walter Spencer.

He liked to be outside. He kept a chair at a certain spot near his cornfield and would go out and sit there for a long time in the evening when the work was done. He used to say he was listening to the corn grow.

The four oldest children and their families used to come from Chicago to visit and sneer at their “country cousins,” but Joseph would challenge them to try it.

One day a forest fire threatened to burn their home, but they were able to beat it back and save the cabin and barn. Sarah and Blanche’s faces and arms were “pretty well cooked,” and Joseph’s mustache and eyebrows were burned off. The stumps with all the pitch in them burned for days afterward.

I’ve seen a reference to the log cabin burning down, but the descendants who gave me all my other information did not mention its burning down.

Joe and Sarah’s son Frank bought a 40-acre farm near Athelstane in 1912 and was drafted into the Army to fight in World War I. He married Esther Lundberg in 1919, and they had two daughters. They bought an 80-acre farm south of Athelstane in 1936. Ethel married Werden Hutchins in 1914, and they had three boys. Ralph married Gertrude Seehawer in 1917, and they had eight children.

Blanche moved to Chicago, married Paul Keifer in 1918, and had three children. (A fourth Keifer child appears in the 1920 census, but I have not been able to find any other information on her.)

Joseph was elected Athelstane town clerk in 1916 and was re-elected through 1925. In later years Sarah was active in the Presbyterian Ladies’ Aid.



Early 1920s. Older kids and adults from left: Billy Rasmussen, Joseph Spencer with wife Sarah in front of him, Gertrude Spencer (Ralph's wife) behind Kittie (Spencer) Klecka, who has daughter Helen in front of her, unidentified girl, Frank Spencer behind his wife Esther, Ralph E. Spencer, Werden Hutchens. Little kids in front: Ralph C. and Harry Spencer, Marie Spencer?, Edwin and Paul Hutchens.

### HARD TIMES

**I**n 1933, Joseph sold his farm equipment and animals at a public auction. He and Sarah were living at their son Frank's house when he died in 1939.

They were "living on the county" before they died, one of their grandsons said. They did not need to be ashamed—when the Great Depression hit in the 1930s, there had already been an agricultural depression throughout the 1920s that had followed World War I. In 1935 more than 30 percent of the population in Wisconsin's northernmost counties were on "relief." Wisconsin law required counties to buy property when taxes weren't paid on it; when Joseph and Sarah died, the county "took" their property and tore down their house.

This record would not be honest if I left out the less flattering things I heard about Joseph and Sarah from their descendants (even from the daughter who praised her parents' religious training).

Joseph was an alcoholic, one of his grandsons said flatly. He said Joseph would drink a lot and then go home and beat Sarah. Joseph always said Sarah kept saying "Don't hit me" until he had to hit her to shut her up.





One of his daughters said, "He would only get drunk two or three times a year, but when he did his personality completely changed. He would never hit his *daughters*, but..." When he came home drunk by himself, she said, he would whip his horse Kit all the way.

Others said he would go into town to drink and also drank after town board meetings and that often he didn't make it home. Sometimes he'd pick up his nearest neighbor, Jake Jensen, on the way. Other times he would drink with Bob Seehawer and Bob had to take him home.

Ralph would try to defend his mother from Joseph. Once after he was grown she sent for him to help her when Joseph was drunk, and Joseph waited outside with a gun to kill Ralph when he arrived. (Obviously, he didn't.)

His daughter said he was the "head of the house," but Sarah used to say to him, "I'll live to crap on your grave." She'd call him "the bloody Englishman," and he'd get furious.

Blanche, the youngest daughter, was the last child left at home, and she said she left when she was 14 (about 1913). Joseph had told her he would pay her to cut the corn, so she did it. But when she asked him for the money (\$1 or \$2) so she could order some underwear she'd picked out from a catalog, he said he didn't have it. She told him, "I know someone who will give it to me." She meant her brother Ralph, who was working in a logging camp, but he thought she meant a lover and they had a big fight over it.

Having her own share of the Spencer temper, Blanche got a job in Athelstane and moved out. She was listed on the June 30, 1915, school census as the 16-year-old daughter of Joseph and Sarah, but she said she moved to Chicago and lived with Florence and Milly when she was 15 or 16.

Joseph "did not believe in the Bible or any religion," one of his grandsons said. "I believe he said at times he didn't believe in God or life after."

When he was dying he said, "I went to heaven, and they wouldn't have me. And I went down below and they wouldn't have me either." He died March 9, 1939.

After Joseph's death Sarah moved in with Ralph and his family and lived with them until her death in 1941.





Left, Joe and Sarah visiting children or grandchildren in Chicago. Right, Athelstane.

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## RALPH EDWARD SPENCER

Ralph was born in Chicago in 1894. He played sandlot baseball and was quite good at it. He also sang in the Methodist Church choir.

As a child he had diphtheria, the disease that had killed his older sister Lottie and brother Joseph, but they tried an experimental antitoxin on him and he survived.

His little sister Blanche remembered him as softhearted and very handsome.

When the family moved to Athelstane, Wisconsin, in 1906, Ralph, Ethel, and Blanche were enrolled in a one-room school that included first through eighth grades. Twelve-year-old Ralph drove them to school (several miles away) in a one-horse wagon or a sled depending on the time of year.

One time it started to snow while they were at school, and when they headed home the snow was already so high the horse couldn't walk through it. Ralph had to unhitch it from the sled and carry Blanche and Ethel from the sled to the horse and put them on her back. Then he walked ahead of the horse to break the snow for it. The snow was getting higher, but they had to stop and let the horse (if not Ralph) rest every once in a while. When they finally reached the top of the hill just before they got to their house, they saw their mother trying to shovel a path to reach them. They had made it.

Their first encounter with Indians was on their way to school. There were 100 or so traveling in single file on horseback, and Ralph drove the wagon to the side of the road to wait for them. The leader said, "Good morning, little children." The children were relieved when they had passed, but the Potawatomi Indians were living peaceably in the community after losing their lands. Some of them worked in the logging industry.

Another time during the trip to or from school the horse reared and wouldn't move forward. Then they saw what had frightened her: a big bear on its hind legs a few feet off the road. Eventually it moved away and the horse began moving again.

We have little information about Ralph as a young man. This excerpt from an article about the Ananias Club from the *Wausaukee Independent* January 13, 1912, shows he was farming then although he



Ralph, left, at age 17, with Fred Seterwol. This photo was enlarged, framed, and hung, but Gertrude hated it (probably because she loved animals).

didn't own land of his own at the time:

It was unanimously decided that the club as a body indulge in farming co-operatively the coming season. A committee of three, consisting of Frank Spencer, F. L. Ruby and Ralph Spencer was appointed to purchase a supply of seed from some reliable seed company, this to be distributed among the following four members of the club: Ralph Spencer, F. L. Ruby, W. C. Croy and Frank Spencer. Ralph Spencer expects to plant one half bushel of potatoes on the Hilrod place. Ralph is an apostle of intensive farming, but F. L. Ruby and Frank Spencer being inclined to farm more extensively will each plan[t] three fourths bushel of potatoes and will also grow a small patch of smart weed, principally for home consumption.

In case you're wondering, "smart weed" is a plant in the *Polygonum* genus that tastes peppery and is used as an herbal medicine.

A 1915 article said Ralph was working for Arthur Bolman. When he registered for the World War I draft in 1917, he said his occupation was farming and he was employed by "owner."

The form said he was of medium height and stout build and had gray eyes and light brown hair. (He was 5 feet, 8 inches according to his World War II draft registration record.) He was not drafted.

He was quite a fighter. He had a short neck and a solid build, and he'd hold his head down between his shoulders. He and a friend would stand back to back in a bar and take on everyone in the place. Even when his sons Ralph and Harry were in their teens, he'd wrestle them both at the same time and win.



Ralph is on the right.

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RALPH E. AND GERTRUDE (SEEHAWER) SPENCER  
ATHELSTANE, WISCONSIN, AND OAKLAND, OREGON

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ATHELSTANE

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Gertrude Seehawer–Ralph Spencer wedding photo. If the two in the back were the wedding witnesses, they are Adeline Maas and Anton Wallgren.



Gertrude was born in Athelstane or Wausauke in 1899; she would have been about 7 and Ralph would have been about 12 when he moved to Athelstane. She always liked him, according to a schoolmate.

They got married August 13, 1917, in nearby Menominee, Michigan. The *Wausauke Independent* reported August 18, "At last we heard the tinkling of wedding bells in our little burg. Ralph Spencer and Gertrude Seehawer were quietly married Monday evening in Menominee."

They were living in Gwinn, Michigan, when their first two children were born. Ralph Cecil was born there in 1918, and Harry was born in 1919. Ralph Edward was working in an iron ore mine there.

The family was back in Athelstane when the 1920 census was taken on January 1. They lived in a log house, and more children were born. They had a baby who died between Harry and Bernice; the family called him "the little blue baby." He lived only two or three days, and they did not name him. Then there were Bernice, 1923; Elaine, 1926; Joe, 1929; Alice, 1935; and finally twins Joan and June. They moved to a frame house about the time Harry was old enough to go to school.



Gert wrote on the back that this was taken at the old Spencer place, presumably Ralph's parents'. The baby probably is Bernice but could be Elaine.



Gertrude, Bernice, Ralph C., Harry, Ralph E. with dog Sparks at Joe and Sarah Spencer's farm in the 1920s. Did Harry ever look up when he was a kid?



Ralph E. Spencer on Fordson tractor  
in addition to working at the mine and operating his own farm:

- Athelstane town constable at least 1924–1933 and 1935 (elected)
- Logging camp
- Carpenter
- Public works projects such as the wall around the cemetery during the Depression
- Marine yards in Marinette
- Groundskeeper at the Wausaukee Club (resort, summers only)

He mowed all the lawns at the Wausaukee Club, a private resort for wealthy Chicagoans. He would use a horse to pull four mowers on the fairways, and he mowed the rest by hand.

They used to read and order from Sears, Wards, and Spiegel catalogs. They ordered tires from Spiegel because they were the best quality. Then they used the old catalogs in the outhouse. One of their sons said, “It was quite an experience at 30 below.” He said Ralph liked to drink his coffee in bed in the morning, and it seemed to go right through him. He’d head for the outhouse with his overall straps half off his shoulders. The outhouse was about 50 or 60 feet from the house.

They bought another farm that had a big log house on it. There were two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. Upstairs one room was for the boys and the other was for the girls. Downstairs were the kitchen and living room; Ralph and Gertrude slept in the living room. There was a cook stove in the kitchen and a stove in one of the other rooms.

They raised things for their own use—dairy cows, pigs, hay, a garden, etc. They sold the cream from the cows.

They kept about 40 chickens. Ralph preferred the Barred Rocks because they are a little bigger bird (about 3 pounds) and he was more interested in the meat than the eggs. (All the neighbors bought Leghorns because they are the best layers.)

Ralph used horses and a Fordson tractor on the farm until World War II, when he replaced them with an Allis-Chalmers.

He had many different jobs in

Ralph's parents, Joseph and Sarah, lived about 7 miles away. Sometimes Ralph and Gertrude's older children would go there to work for the day, and they would ski back home cross country. They never skied for pleasure because it was so much work.

A change that would affect the rest of their lives and the lives of many of their descendants came to Athelstane in the late 1920s. Two "workers" (ministers) in the nondenominational religion informally called "The Truth" came to town. Gertrude, Ralph, Gertrude's mother, and some of Gertrude's sisters "professed," or "made their choice for the Lord." The religion is discussed in more detail in the Seehawer section.

The family had a Christmas tree until Ralph and Gertrude "professed." "The Truth" does not consider Christmas a religious holiday and prohibits Christmas trees. They still celebrated Christmas with gifts, though. The children got oranges, apples, nuts, and candy in their Christmas stockings (although Harry said he didn't know oranges existed until he started school). They also got clothes and a toy to share such as a sled or skis. Gertrude made sock dolls for the three younger girls.

In the late 1930s, Ralph and Gertrude bought a house and 160 acres across the road from Gertrude's brother Emil Seehawer in Silver Cliff. It was the nicest house they ever had even though it did not have an indoor bathroom. It was well-built with good siding. It had two bedrooms on the main floor, and an open second story with no partitions.

After Ralph's father died in 1939, his mother came to live with them until her death in 1941.



Gertrude took this picture of the family home to send to Ralph and Harry during WWII.

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### MORE ABOUT RALPH

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Ralph had the Spencer temper. One of his sons said, "Everyone thought he was really mean, but that was just so people couldn't see the hurt underneath."

Unflattering stories his grandchildren heard about him indicate he lost his temper when he felt threatened. He was strict, "cussed like a trooper," and used harsh punishments. However, he did not drink the way his father did and the family always remained close.

Ralph was a life-long Republican. One of their sons thought Gertrude was a Democrat; "she didn't always see eye to eye" with Ralph.



Farmboy playing cowboy

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### MORE ABOUT GERTRUDE

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I think Gertrude Seehawer Spencer was loved by everyone who knew her. She was unfailingly sweet and, judging from photos, smiled all the time.

She loved the rain. The cows would lie down in the brush when it rained, and when they stopped moving the bells around their necks didn't make any sound. That made it hard to bring them in for milking, but Gertrude would always volunteer to go find them.

She enjoyed writing poetry and other things. One poem called "Let Them Play" was about how she'd rather have a messy house than keep her kids from playing. Others were sad love songs.

She loved animals. One of her daughters said she hated the photo of Ralph with the dead rabbits, and she thought it was because she loved animals so much.

She always had houseplants such as geraniums. They had a tall cactus in Wisconsin that was very painful to anyone who bumped into it.

Gertrude gave birth to twins June and Joan all by herself. Ralph may have been on his way to get help; Gertrude's Grandma O'Deal, who was a midwife, lived nearby. Gertrude kept Elaine and Bernice busy with chores outside the house while it was happening. When they returned, the twins





were lying on the bed. The cord had been wrapped around June's neck, and Gertrude had had to take care of it herself.

One of Gertrude's sons said she could peel potatoes faster than anyone else he'd ever seen when she lost track of the time and realized that Ralph was on his way home for supper. Her sisters would come and they'd be busy gossiping until the last minute—then she'd yell at the boys to get some chips for the fire because their dad was coming.

Another son said her pancakes were greasy and crisp around the edges, and nine times out of ten the cornbread would be burnt—but she was a genius at improvising. When people would show up unexpectedly, she could put together a good meal no matter how many there were or what she had in the ice box (in the days before they had an electric refrigerator).

Every fall, a man they knew would buy a bunch of smelt and Ralph would get a 5-gallon bucket of them. Gertrude would clean and debone them until she had forty for Ralph to start eating, and then she would start frying them. The kids got some, too, but she didn't debone theirs. Everyone had to have a piece of bread with the smelt in case they got a bone stuck in their throat.

She wouldn't eat breakfast until everyone else had eaten. Then she would make a fried egg sandwich and a cup of coffee for herself. But she wouldn't sit down to eat. She would eat a bite at a time and have a swallow of coffee at a time while she did her housework and her breakfast got cold.

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#### WORLD WAR II

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Both Ralph C. and Harry were drafted into the Army to fight in World War II. Ralph went first, in March 1941. Believe it or not, this was before Pearl Harbor was bombed and the United States entered the war. The USA's first peacetime selective service draft law had been signed into law in October 1940 as war spread in the rest of the world.



After Pearl Harbor was bombed at the end of 1941 and the United States entered the war, Harry was drafted in 1942.

Their little sister was very young at the time, but she remembered their parents listening to every newscast on the radio even if they'd heard it ten times before. She also remembered Gertrude crying about her sons often, especially when the Army sent her Ralph's Purple Heart. She would send them care packages containing cookies, wrapping them again and again, tying them with twine, to make sure they arrived safely.

She wrote poems called "A Soldier's Farewell" and "Write Me a Letter Darling." She sent one away to have it made into a record, but when she got it back there were so many changes in it, it wasn't the same.



Gert, Ralph C., and Ralph E. Spencer

I've heard two conflicting things about Ralph's World War II service: (1) that he was in a tank battalion of the 5th armored division and (2) that he was in the Battle of the Bulge. The 5th Armored was involved in a lot of the fighting in Europe in 1944 and 1945, but it was not in the Battle of the Bulge. Regardless, Ralph received a Purple Heart with a cluster and a presidential citation.

In the spring of 1945, the 5th Armored drove across Germany to the Elbe River, where the American Army met the Soviet forces who were coming from the east. The 5th Division "mopped up" until VE Day. Based on Ralph's experiences during this time, I think it is likely he was in that division.

At one point near the end of the war, Ralph ended up several miles behind enemy lines. While trying to get back, he had little to eat and had to take food he found at a farmhouse. About this time, German soldiers started surrendering to him. Ralph and his prisoners kept making their way back. It helped that he had learned to speak a little German from Gertrude's father.

He had gone for days without sleep, and finally he stumbled and fell. Instead of taking the opportunity to escape or kill Ralph, one of the German POWs helped him get up. Then he pointed at the barrel of the gun and used sign language to warn Ralph that it was filled with mud and snow and would jam if he didn't clean it out.

Ralph was among the first Americans to see the Nazi concentration camps and their inmates.

Harry was sent to a port battalion in Sicily, where he unloaded ships, and he was there during the Battle of Anzio. He and Irene Barrows of the nearby town of Amberg had planned to be married before he shipped out, but the Army moved up the date and they weren't able to. He arrived back in the United States in October 1945, and his separation date was November 2. He married Irene in Chicago, where both were living before he was drafted, November 13, 1945.

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OUT TO OREGON

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After World War II, some of the residents of Athelstane started moving to Oakland, Oregon, to work in the booming post-war lumber industry there. Early in 1947, Ralph and Gertrude's 17-year-old son Joe (Joseph Tyndal II) hitched a ride to Oakland with Alex Fugate and his family. Alex was married to Joe's cousin Eleanor, the daughter of Gertrude's brother Emil Seehawer.

Gertrude and Emil had always wanted to go out West. She had books on the West, especially Oregon and Washington, and a couple of her mother's cousins had moved there.

When Joe arrived in Oakland, he wrote a letter about the town to his family. His father sent him a letter by return mail saying, "Rent a house. We're coming." Joe rented a house, Ralph and Gertrude auctioned off everything including their farm, and the rest of the family, including Harry and Irene, caravanned across the country.



Joe Spencer II doing chores in Wisconsin. Why would he want to move to Oregon?



Gert, Elaine, and Alice Spencer at Devil's Gap, Utah.



Gert, Ralph E., Elaine, and Irene (Barrows) Spencer



Gertrude, Elaine (Alice behind her), Ralph C., Ralph E. Spencer

See the trailer behind the first car in the photos? It held *all* they brought. Alice, June, and Joan couldn't even bring their precious dolls (which had formerly belonged to their cousin Barbara Bielenberg). They had carefully laid the dolls in a bed, covered them with a blanket, and kissed them goodbye when they left their home in Athelstane.

They did find room for the dog in the trailer.

Oakland was overcrowded when they got there in February 1947, but they finally found a one-bedroom house to rent. As soon as possible, their son Ralph bought a lot in Wells Addition from Glen Wells; it was a new development just outside the town. Ralph E. and Harry each bought a small piece of Ralph's property from him. Their lots were next to each other on Wells Road. Ralph C. kept the L-shaped piece at the back of it (facing Wells Lane).

The family built Harry and Irene's house first, and as soon as there was a shell they all moved into that and lived there while building the parents' house. Harry and Irene's house had one bedroom at first, and later they added a second bedroom.

The Spencer family was followed to Oakland by Gertrude's brother Rudolph "Bob" Seehawer, his wife Marie, and their family. Bob and Marie stayed with them at first, and at one time there were seventeen people living in the one-bedroom rental house. All the men got jobs at Martin Box Company in Oakland. Gertrude had an assembly line for making lunches for them to take to work. At night she'd put a quilt on the floor and the kids would line up across it to sleep. Bob and Marie had brought a trailer house with them. They would get everyone out of it so Marie could clean the floors, and then the kids could sleep in that.





Ralph C. and Harry working on Harry's house on Wells Road



Harry, Elaine, Gert, and Bernice taking a break in the shade



Gertrude at Crater Lake



Gertrude and ? collecting leaves or flowers to  
take home

Gertrude was finally living her dream and was eager to explore. She wrote in a notebook about a couple of the outings they had soon after they moved to Oregon. One was a trip to Myrtle Creek to find her cousins (George Gates and Ray Gormley), and the other was a failed attempt to drive to Crater Lake. That is, they failed to reach Crater Lake, but they succeeded in having a lovely day trip.

Unfortunately the notebook (not in my possession) was blank except for those two entries plus what looked like the beginning of a story about going to the coast (half a page). That one mentioned that the night before they got out the meat grinder and made bologna.

Ralph and Gertrude's son Harry told his daughter in 2007 that when they moved to Oregon it rained 21 days straight. She said, "I asked if he felt like turning back, and he said, no, there was no turning back, and besides, his mother loved it. She loved the rain. She loved the rain so much that in Wisconsin when it was time to bring the cows in when it rained, she always volunteered to be the one to do it."

Life rushed on for the next eight years. Ralph and Gertrude finished their own house next to Harry's. It was just covered with tarpaper, but it was the only house they ever had with an indoor bathroom.



Ralph and Gert's house on Wells Road. Note the gladioluses on the left.

Joe married Juanita Moore in 1948, and they had sons in 1953 and 1955. Joe went into the logging business. Harry and Irene had daughters in 1949 and 1952. Elaine married Beryl Olson—who also moved to Oakland from Marinette County, Wisconsin—in 1952, and they had a daughter in 1954. The day after Elaine's wedding, Ralph married Betty Brunson. She already had three daughters, and they had three more daughters.



One of Joe's first logging trucks

Bernice was working. Alice, June, and Joan graduated from Oakland High School.

Gertrude's mother and siblings came out from

Wisconsin and Illinois to visit. Three more of her brother Emil's children—Sheldon, Howard, and Helen—even moved to Oregon themselves. (Eleanor and Helen stayed; Sheldon and Howard returned to Athelstane.)

By the middle of 1955, Ralph C., Harry, Elaine, and Joe and their spouses had all bought land and built houses on a hill a little further east of Oakland. Each had several acres of property. They were all living there or preparing to live there.

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### A FATAL ACCIDENT

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On July 22, 1955, Ralph's daughter Alice noticed he was looking out the kitchen window in an unusual way—he seemed to be thinking about something serious.

He always got to work at Martin Box early, and when Harry arrived that morning his father was already sitting on a stack of plywood, drinking coffee and giving him a hard time about getting there at the last minute.

I was a toddler. I remember going to Martin Box later that day and sitting in a car in the parking lot with my mother and big sister for a long time.

Ralph, my granddad, had been in a gruesome accident that morning. He and another employee were working on a double train door with the other man inside the car pushing while Ralph stood outside holding the locking device. When the door was opened, it was released from the top and tumbled off the track it was supposed to slide on. It caught Ralph's head between the steel edge of the dock and the door, causing multiple skull fractures. The coroner estimated the door weighed 600–700 pounds; Harry said it was 750 pounds.

Harry had to help put his dying father on a stretcher. They rushed him to the Roseburg hospital and he had emergency surgery, but he was dead before noon.

The family buried him in Athelstane.

An investigation showed the track for the sliding door was defective, according to the Roseburg, Oregon, *News-Review*. It reported that after the accident about 8 feet of the track on which the door was suspended was missing. I do not know whether Martin Box ever compensated Gertrude for the accident.

More than forty years later, Ralph's youngest sister Blanche, then 97 years old, told her daughter-in-law and caregiver, "My brother Ralph is coming to get me about noon." Bernice said, "He is?" and Blanche said, "Yes,, he'll take me halfway and my Daddy will meet us and take me the rest of the way." Blanche died a few weeks later. Remember that when Blanche's father was dying he said "they wouldn't have me" either above or below; apparently he did make it to the other side.



One of the last photos of Ralph E. Spencer, taken at the Oregon coast

A few years before Harry died (in 2010), he said he kept seeing relatives who were dead—his brother Ralph, his father, his mother, his wife, his sisters. He said his father would come to him in his dreams and help him with things. Harry would be trying to or needing to do something, and he'd think, "Dad'll help me." For example, Harry would be struggling with a splice in building a house, and his father would come along and say, "Do such and such" and it would work. Or Harry would be chopping on a ditch and sit down to rest, and Ralph would come by and talk to him. This went on for some years before Harry died.

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### GERTRUDE'S FINAL YEARS

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I can only imagine Gertrude's shock and grief when Ralph was killed. I was a toddler then and don't remember a change in the people around me.

Harry and Irene's third child was born a few weeks after Ralph's death. Eventually Harry had four children, Ralph C. eight, and Elaine two. Bernice married Willard Crawford in 1957, and they had a couple of daughters. June got her college degree and married Bob Cook in 1959, and they had a son and a daughter. Harry and Irene moved to Nevada at the beginning of 1962. Joan and Bill Fuhlrodt had a son in June 1965.

Gertrude's health deteriorated. She had diabetes and heart disease.

Then on a visit I heard my mother quietly asking her about something she'd noticed under her dress and heard Grandma whispering back that she was using a carrot poultice on her breast because she had cancer in it. The cancer moved from her breast to her bones. As she weakened, she moved into our former house on "Spencer Hill" and Ralph's daughters Tammy and Tremaine took care of her until she had to go into the hospital for her last days.

When she was near death she would moan and whisper, "Mama, Mama, it hurts, Mama." Her mother had died in 1953. One of the last coherent things Gertrude said was, "Oh, the Lamb of God. How beautiful." She died September 29, 1965, and is buried in Roseburg Memorial Gardens.



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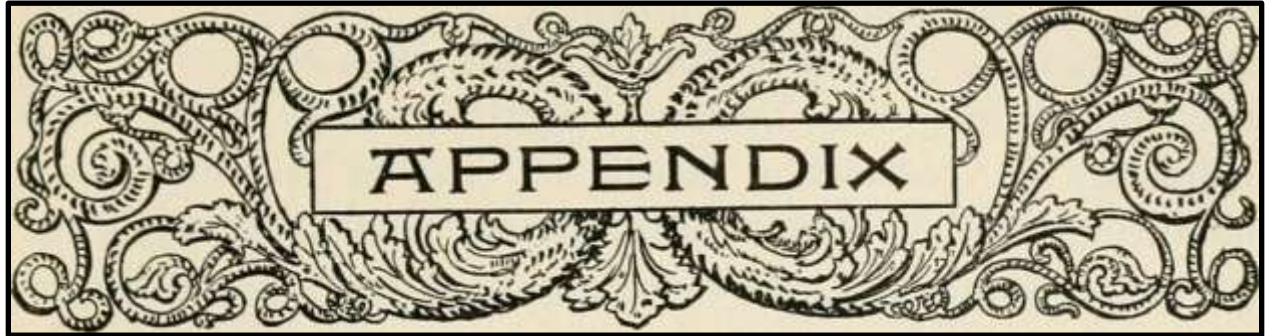
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# RALPH EDWARD SPENCER ANCESTORS

Prepared by Laurel Spencer Busch, 2/20/17

## Joseph Tyndal Spencer I

b: Dec 08, 1860 in Slimbridge,  
Cambridge, Gloucestershire,  
England  
m: Nov 16, 1878 in Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, England  
d: Mar 09, 1939 in Athelstane,  
Marinette, Wisconsin

## Ralph Edward Spencer

b: Jun 28, 1894 in Chicago,  
Illinois  
m: Aug 13, 1917 in  
Menominee, Michigan  
d: Jul 22, 1955 in Martin Box  
Co., Oakland, Douglas Co.,  
Oregon

## Sarah Ellen Lewis

b: Mar 22, 1858 in Bisley,  
Gloucestershire, England  
d: Jun 17, 1941 in Athelstane,  
Marinette, Wisconsin

## Joseph J. Spencer

b: May 11, 1833 in Wotton-  
Under-Edge, England  
m: Feb 26, 1857 in Kings-road  
Chapel, Reading, Berkshire,  
England; Baptist Meeting House  
d: Jun 02, 1909 in Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, England

## Mary Ann White

b: Jan 1827 in Newbury,  
Berkshire, England  
d: Oct 18, 1919 in Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, England

## David Lewis

b: Abt. 1832 in Bisley,  
Gloucestershire, England  
m: Jul 09, 1850 in Church,  
Bisley, Gloucestershire,  
England  
d: Jan 21, 1910 in his home,  
Horns Road, Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, England

## Lydia Watts

b: Abt. 1827 in Calne, Wiltshire,  
England  
d: Nov 08, 1922 in Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, England

## Jacob Spencer

b: Jan 10, 1798 in Wotton-unde...  
m: Jul 24, 1818 in Wotton-under...  
d: Mar 07, 1880 in Pucklechurch...

## Hannah Fowler Howell

b: Jan 31, 1797 in Wotton-  
under-Edge, Gloucestershire,  
England  
d: Apr 07, 1863 in Wotton-  
under-Edge, Gloucestershire,  
England

## James White

b: Abt. 1804 in Brewham, Some...  
m: Apr 02, 1826 in Thatcham, B...  
d: Jun 03, 1882 in 12 Thorn St...

## Esther Payne

b: Abt. 1804 in Newbury,  
Berkshire, England  
d: Nov 07, 1884 in 14 Charles  
Street, Reading, Berkshire,  
England

## John Lewis

b: Abt. 1800 in Bisley,  
Gloucestershire, England  
m:  
d: Jan 12, 1871 in  
Walkleywood, Horsley,  
Gloucestershire

## Elizabeth Driver

b: Abt. 1801 in Bisley,  
Gloucestershire, England  
d: Jan 25, 1870 in  
Walkleywood, Horsley,  
Gloucestershire

## Samuel Watts

b: Abt. 1793 in Melksham, Wilts...  
m: Nov 09, 1815 in Melksham,...  
d: Nov 17, 1872 in Bisley Old R...

## Eleanor Buckland

b: Abt. 1798 in Melksham,  
Wiltshire, England  
d: Dec 26, 1867 in Slad,  
Painswick, Gloucestershire,  
England

## Ralph and Gertrude (Seehawer) Spencer Family



**Husband:** Ralph Edward Spencer

Birth: Jun 28, 1894 in Chicago, Illinois<sup>1</sup>  
 Marriage: Aug 13, 1917 in Menominee, Michigan<sup>2</sup>  
 Death: Jul 22, 1955 in Martin Box Co., Oakland, Douglas Co., Oregon<sup>3</sup>  
 Burial: Athelstane, WI<sup>4</sup>  
 Father: Joseph Tyndal Spencer I  
 Mother: Sarah Ellen "Eleanor" Lewis



**Wife:** Gertrude Seehawer

Birth: Jan 28, 1899 in Wausaukee, Marinette Co., Wisconsin<sup>5</sup>  
 Death: Sep 29, 1965 in Douglas County, Oregon<sup>6</sup>  
 Burial: Roseburg, OR<sup>7</sup>  
 Father: Rudolph Adolph Seehawer  
 Mother: Mary Ellen Boesen



### Children:

1  
 M      Name: Ralph Cecil Spencer  
       Birth: Jun 04, 1918 in Gwinn, Michigan<sup>8</sup>  
 Marriage: Aug 23, 1952 in Vancouver, WA<sup>9</sup>  
       Death: Aug 05, 1983 in Roseburg, Oregon<sup>10</sup>  
       Spouse: Betty Jane Parsons

2  
 M      Name: Harry Edward Spencer Sr.  
       Birth: Nov 04, 1919 in Gwinn, Marquette Co., Michigan<sup>11</sup>  
 Marriage: Nov 13, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois<sup>12</sup>  
       Death: Apr 05, 2010 in Life Care of Reno, Washoe Co., Nevada<sup>13</sup>  
       Spouse: Irene Karen "Pootchie" Barrows

3  
 F      Name: Adella Bernice Spencer  
       Birth: Apr 04, 1923 in Athelstane, WI  
 Marriage: Mar 10, 1957<sup>14</sup>  
       Death: Dec 25, 1994 in Portland, OR<sup>15</sup>  
       Burial: Fort Jones, California  
       Spouse: Willard Emerson Crawford<sup>16</sup>

## Ralph and Gertrude (Seehawer) Spencer Family

4 F	Name: Mildred Elaine Spencer Birth: May 15, 1926 in Athelstane, Marinette Co., Wisconsin Marriage: Aug 22, 1952 in home of Ward C. Watson, JP, Sutherlin, Oregon <sup>17</sup> Death: Jan 22, 1995 in Douglas Co., Oregon Spouse: Beryl Leslie "Swede" Olson
5 M	Name: Joseph Tyndal Spencer II Birth: Sep 21, 1929 in Athelstane, Marinette Co., Wisconsin <sup>18</sup> Death: Nov 27, 2012 in Roseburg, Douglas Co., Oregon <sup>13</sup> Spouse: Living Moore
6 F	Name: Alice Mary Spencer Birth: Jan 07, 1935 in Athelstane, Wisconsin Death: Feb 10, 2011 in Donald, Oregon (Bentz home) <sup>19</sup>
7 F	Name: Living Spencer  Spouse: Living Fuhlrodt
8 F	Name: Living Spencer  Spouse: Robert Cook

### Sources:



- 1 Family Bible--saw 1985
- 2 Athelstane newspaper, 8-18-1917; "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," FamilySearch.org
- 3 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; The News-Review, Roseburg. Ore., July 23, 1955
- 4 Harry Spencer
- 5 Alice Spencer, 5/20/81 "Mom's Memory Book"
- 6 Personal knowledge (LSB).
- 7 Personal knowledge (LSB).
- 8 Betty Parsons Spencer, 2-4-82
- 9 Mildred Elaine Spencer Olson, 1-29-82
- 10 Memorial card, Portia S., Aug. 1999.
- 11 Birth certificate.
- 12 Personal knowledge (LSB).
- 13 Personal knowledge.
- 14 Alice Anne C. Bentz, 2/98.
- 15 A.A. Crawford, Aug. 1999.
- 16 Family Tree.
- 17 Mildred Elaine Spencer Olson, 1-29-82; Douglas Co., Ore., marriage records online at FamilySearch.org, Marriage records vol 21 1950-1952, image 657, cert. 10089, page 546
- 18 Obit.
- 19 E-mail from Alice Anne Bentz.

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## Joseph Tyndal and Sarah (Lewis) Spencer I Family

<b>Husband:</b>		Joseph Tyndal Spencer I	
	Birth:	Dec 08, 1860 in Slimbridge, Cambridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>1</sup>	
	Marriage:	Nov 16, 1878 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>2</sup>	
	Death:	Mar 09, 1939 in Athelstane, Marinette, Wisconsin <sup>3</sup>	
	Father:	Joseph J. Spencer	
	Mother:	Mary Ann White	
<b>Wife:</b>		Sarah Ellen "Eleanor" Lewis	
	Birth:	Mar 22, 1858 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>	
	Death:	Jun 17, 1941 in Athelstane, Marinette, Wisconsin <sup>5</sup>	
	Father:	David Lewis	
	Mother:	Lydia Watts	
<b>Children:</b>			
1 F	Name:	Florance Annie Louisa Spencer	
	Birth:	Dec 31, 1878 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>6</sup>	
	Marriage:	Jan 10, 1903 in St. Martin's Catholic Church, Cook Co., Ill. <sup>7</sup>	
	Death:	Apr 04, 1928 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois <sup>8</sup>	
	Burial:	Sleepy Hollow <sup>8</sup>	
	Spouse:	Fred H. "Ferdinand Biehl" Biehl	
2 M	Name:	Walter Harry Beaumont Spencer	
	Birth:	Apr 11, 1881 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>9</sup>	
	Marriage:	Mar 12, 1905 in Lake County, Indiana <sup>10</sup>	
	Death:	Jan 04, 1968 in Cook County, Illinois <sup>11</sup>	
	Spouse:	Kathryn Susan "Kittie" Kiefer <sup>12</sup>	
3 F	Name:	Lotty Alice Beatress Spencer	
	Birth:	Jul 08, 1883 in United States <sup>13</sup>	
	Death:	Nov 23, 1886 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>6</sup>	
4 F	Name:	Milleyson Mary Ann "Millie" Spencer	
	Birth:	Apr 05, 1885 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>14</sup>	
	Marriage:	Oct 25, 1956 in Lake County, Indiana <sup>15</sup>	
	Death:	Feb 10, 1974 <sup>16</sup>	
	Spouse:	William E. Rasmussen Sr.	
5 F	Name:	Kate Rosella "Kittie" Spencer	
	Birth:	Jul 23, 1887 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>3</sup>	
	Marriage:	Jul 14, 1906 in Chicago, Ill. <sup>7</sup>	
	Death:	Jan 13, 1980 in Stetsonville, Wisconsin <sup>17</sup>	
	Spouse:	Frank Klecka	
6 M	Name:	Joseph Albert Spencer	
	Birth:	Feb 04, 1890 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>6</sup>	
	Death:	Jan 08, 1893 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>3</sup>	

## Joseph Tyndal and Sarah (Lewis) Spencer I Family

7 M	Name: Frank Tyndal Spencer Birth: May 16, 1892 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>18</sup> Marriage: Oct 10, 1919 in Iron Mountain, Dickinson Co., Michigan <sup>19</sup> Death: Apr 22, 1967 <sup>20</sup> Spouse: Esther Elvira Lundberg	
8 M	Name: Ralph Edward Spencer Birth: Jun 28, 1894 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>6</sup> Marriage: Aug 13, 1917 in Menominee, Michigan <sup>21</sup> Death: Jul 22, 1955 in Martin Box Co., Oakland, Douglas Co., Oregon <sup>22</sup> Burial: Athelstane, WI <sup>23</sup> Spouse: Gertrude Seehawer	
9 F	Name: Ethel Lillian Spencer Birth: Jul 25, 1896 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>24</sup> Marriage: Jul 22, 1914 in Iron Mountain, Dickinson Co., Michigan <sup>25</sup> Death: Jul 19, 1983 in Escanaba, MI <sup>26</sup> Burial: Park Cemetery, Marquette Spouse: Werden Reynold Hutchens	
10 F	Name: Blanche Gertrude Spencer Birth: Oct 10, 1898 in Chicago, Illinois <sup>6</sup> Marriage: Mar 15, 1918 <sup>27</sup> Death: May 19, 1996 in Tacoma, Washington <sup>28</sup> Burial: Forest Lawn-Covina Hills, Orange, CA Spouse: Paul Keifer Other Spouses: Verdie Clyde Cannon (Abt. 1968) Lamon Reese Cannon (1978)	

### Sources:

- 1 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; 1871 census
- 2 Certified copy of entry of marriage, GRO.
- 3 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66
- 4 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; Marie Spencer Family Bible 5/27/97; 1881 Gloucestershire census
- 5 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; Marie Spencer Family Bible 5/27/97
- 6 Family Bible--saw 1985
- 7 Marriage license.
- 8 FamilySearch, Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947.
- 9 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; Marie Spencer Family Bible 5/27/97; "England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2XVK-86K> : accessed 19 May 2015), Walter Harry B Spencer, 1881; from "England & Wales Births, 1837-2006," database, findmypast (<http://www.findmypast.com> : 2012); citing Birth Registration, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, citing General Register Office, Southport, England.
- 10 "Indiana, Marriages, 1811-2007," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VNTD-KJB> : accessed 19 May 2015), Walter Harry Spencer and Katie Kiefer, 12 Mar 1905; citing , Lake, Indiana, county clerk offices, Indiana; FHL microfilm 2,414,591.
- 11 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9/79; B. Spencer Muench 1/2/82; "United States Social Security Death Index," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V94H-3TP> : accessed 19 May 2015), Walter Spencer, Jan 1968; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

## Joseph Tyndal and Sarah (Lewis) Spencer I Family

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### Sources: (con't)

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- 12 Bernice Spencer Muench, Jan 2, 1982.
- 13 Joseph and Sarah Spencer Family Bible--saw 1985
- 14 Family Bible--saw 1985; "Illinois, Cook County Birth Registers, 1871-1915," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7SL-7BL> : accessed 18 May 2015), Mellecent M. A. Spencer, 05 Apr 1885; citing item 2 v 11 p 204, Chicago, Cook, Illinois, Cook County Courthouse, Chicago; FHL microfilm 1,287,729.
- 15 "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1971-40055-1429-40?cc=1410397> : accessed 17 March 2016), Lake > 1956-1957 Volume 164 > image 51 of 308; County clerk offices, Indiana.
- 16 Debra Unger/Marie Spencer/Family Bible 11-8-80;
- 17 Family Bible 11-8-80
- 18 Family Bible--saw 1984; Ancestry.com. U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918
- 19 Michigan, Marriages, 1822-1995, FamilySearch.
- 20 Debra Unger/Marie Spencer/Family Bible 11-8-80
- 21 Athelstane newspaper, 8-18-1917; "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," FamilySearch.org
- 22 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; The News-Review, Roseburg. Ore., July 23, 1955
- 23 Harry Spencer
- 24 Family Bible--saw 1984; 1900 census; her marriage record.
- 25 Michigan, Marriages, 1868-1925, FamilySearch.
- 26 Blanche Spencer Cannon 7-20-83
- 27 Clipping about Paul filing for divorce.
- 28 Bernice Pickard.

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## Joseph J. and Mary Ann (White) Spencer Family

<b>Husband:</b>		Joseph J. Spencer	
	Birth:	May 11, 1833 in Wotton-Under-Edge, England <sup>1</sup>	
	Marriage:	Feb 26, 1857 in Kings-road Chapel, Reading, Berkshire, England; Baptist Meeting House <sup>2</sup>	
	Death:	Jun 02, 1909 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>3</sup>	
	Burial:	Jun 07, 1909 in Baptist Burying Ground, Stroud, grave #137 <sup>4</sup>	
	Father:	Jacob Spencer	
	Mother:	Hannah Fowler Howell	
<b>Wife:</b>		Mary Ann White	
	Birth:	Jan 1827 in Newbury, Berkshire, England <sup>5</sup>	
	Death:	Oct 18, 1919 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>3</sup>	
	Burial:	London Road, Stroud	
	Father:	James White	
	Mother:	Esther "Hester Payne" Payne	
<b>Children:</b>			
1	Name:	Jacob James Spencer <sup>9</sup>	
M	Birth:	Abt. 1858 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>6</sup>	
	Marriage:	Apr 30, 1879 in St. Paul's Church, Balsale Heath, Worcester <sup>7</sup>	
	Death:	1933 in Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>8</sup>	
	Spouse:	Emma Welsford	
2	Name:	John George Beaumont Spencer	
M	Birth:	Apr 29, 1859 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>10</sup>	
	Marriage:	Oct 30, 1879 in West Derby, Lancashire, England <sup>11</sup>	
	Death:	Oct 1915 in Myersville, New Jersey <sup>12</sup>	
	Burial:	Presbyterian Church Cemetery, New Providence, R.I. <sup>13</sup>	
	Spouse:	Alice Frances Robinson	
	Other Spouses:	Flora Ellsworth Young (Jun 21, 1888 in Providence, Union Co., New Jersey) <sup>[14]</sup>	
3	Name:	Joseph Tyndal Spencer I	
M	Birth:	Dec 08, 1860 in Slimbridge, Cambridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>15</sup>	
	Marriage:	Nov 16, 1878 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>16</sup>	
	Death:	Mar 09, 1939 in Athelstane, Marinette, Wisconsin <sup>17</sup>	
	Spouse:	Sarah Ellen Lewis	
4	Name:	Hannah Esther "Annie" Spencer <sup>21</sup>	
F	Birth:	Jul 04, 1862 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>18</sup>	
	Marriage:	Apr 02, 1888 in Baptist Chapel, Stroud <sup>19</sup>	
	Death:	Jun 1951 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>20</sup>	
	Spouse:	Frederick George Avens	
5	Name:	Albert Charles White Spencer	
M	Birth:	Abt. 1864 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>22</sup>	
	Marriage:	Jul 28, 1890 in Leek Parish, Stafford County, England <sup>2</sup>	
	Death:	Jan 06, 1893 in Merivale in Foxmoor Lane, Ebley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>23</sup>	
	Spouse:	Marian Davenport	

## Joseph J. and Mary Ann (White) Spencer Family

6 M	Name:	Opie Andrew Llewellyn Spencer <sup>27</sup>
	Birth:	Mar 17, 1865 in Slimbridge, Cambridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>24</sup>
	Marriage:	Dec 03, 1883 in Huntingdons Chapel, Cheltenham, Glos., England <sup>25</sup>
	Death:	Sep 17, 1939 in Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas
	Burial:	Maple Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, KS <sup>26</sup>
	Spouse:	Millicent Elizabeth Russell
7 M	Name:	Tyeth Angel Theophilus Spencer
	Birth:	Oct 11, 1866 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>28</sup>
	Marriage:	Mar 20, 1889 <sup>29</sup>
	Death:	Jun 02, 1951 in Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, England <sup>30</sup>
	Spouse:	Lydia Mary Bryant
Other Spouses:		Ellen Agnes Pates (1920 in Luton, Bedfordshire, England) <sup>[31]</sup>
8 F	Name:	Louisa Mary Ann Spencer <sup>34</sup>
	Birth:	1870 in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>32</sup>
	Death:	1875 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>33</sup>

### Sources:

- 1 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9-6-79; Ancestry.com: England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970 for Joseph Spencer
- 2 Marriage entry, copy provided by Carol Oldroyd 2-16-99.
- 3 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9-6-79
- 4 (Date and number) Carol Oldroyd.
- 5 Age at death was 92; Tyeth's Christmas 1916 letter said she would be 90 in January; Family Bible 11-8-80(?)/1881 census.
- 6 Date--Mar. entry from Carol Oldroyd 2/99; Place--1881 census (Carol Oldroyd).
- 7 Marriage certificate.
- 8 Death index
- 9 Middle name, father's will.
- 10 Carol Oldroyd, 1999 (month and day), BMD, year, Adele Spencer, 3/10/2014
- 11 Marriage certificate via Adele Spencer.
- 12 Buried in New Providence, New Jersey, per granddaughter Hope Spicer Dunlap.
- 13 Adele Spencer (per her cousin Hope Spicer Dunlap), email, 10/18/2014.
- 14 FamilySearch.org, New Jersey, Marriages, 1678-1985
- 15 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; 1871 census
- 16 Certified copy of entry of marriage, GRO.
- 17 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66
- 18 Censuses, 1939 register.
- 19 Marriage cert., newspaper notice.
- 20 Richard Avens, email, Oct. 12, 2010.
- 21 Exact name in GRO index, 11-15-16.
- 22 1881 Gloucestershire census.
- 23 Clive Dale, Ebley Chapel, 2-14-99.
- 24 OldroydSpencer.FTW, Date of Import: Jun 5, 1999
- 25 Carol Oldroyd, 12/2/07.
- 26 Carol Oldroyd 1999.
- 27 OldroydSpencer.FTW, Date of Import: Jun 5, 1999.
- 28 Location: censuses. Date: 1939 register.
- 29 Carol Oldroyd Sept. 05; from mar. cert.



## Joseph J. and Mary Ann (White) Spencer Family

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### Sources: (con't)

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- 30 Death notice  
    , Bedfordshire Times and Standard, June 8, 1951
- 31 Marriage Registration Index
- 32 4th quarter, FindMyPast: England & Wales births 1837-2006; 1871 census.
- 33 Civil registration July-Sept. 1875; father's obit said one of his children buried 34 yrs. earlier;  
    FindMyPast: England & Wales deaths 1837-2007.
- 34 Name Ann from GRO index 11-15-16.

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## David and Lydia (Watts) Lewis Family

<b>Husband:</b>		David Lewis
	Birth:	Abt. 1832 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>1</sup>
	Marriage:	Jul 09, 1850 in Church, Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>2</sup>
	Death:	Jan 21, 1910 in his home, Horns Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>3</sup>
	Father:	John Lewis
	Mother:	Elizabeth Driver
<b>Wife:</b>		Lydia Watts
	Birth:	Abt. 1827 in Calne, Wiltshire, England <sup>4</sup>
	Death:	Nov 08, 1922 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>5</sup>
	Father:	Samuel Watts
	Mother:	Eleanor Buckland
<b>Children:</b>		
1 F	Name:	Alice Lydia Lewis
	Birth:	1850 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>6</sup>
	Marriage:	1876 <sup>7</sup>
	Spouse:	Arthur "Seymour" Seymore
2 M	Name:	John William Lewis
	Birth:	Abt. 1854 <sup>8</sup>
	Marriage:	Apr 04, 1874 in Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>9</sup>
	Spouse:	Dorcuss Maria Driver <sup>9</sup>
3 M	Name:	Charles Robert Driver "Charles Edward Driver" Lewis
	Birth:	Abt. 1855 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	1875 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>11</sup>
	Death:	1931 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>12</sup>
	Spouse:	Annie Elizabeth Warner <sup>13</sup>
4 F	Name:	Sarah Ellen Lewis
	Birth:	Mar 22, 1858 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>14</sup>
	Marriage:	Nov 16, 1878 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>15</sup>
	Death:	Jun 17, 1941 in Athelstane, Marinette, Wisconsin <sup>16</sup>
	Spouse:	Joseph Tyndal Spencer I



### Sources:

- 1 Censuses. Baptized April 15, 1832. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 2 Marriage certificate.
- 3 Death certificate
- 4 1881 census; christened 1828--"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org>).
- 5 Ancestry. England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007.
- 6 1851 Bisley census; "England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:26TP-Q6S> : accessed 19 May 2015), Lydia Alice Lewis, 1850; from "England & Wales Births, 1837-2006," database, findmypast (<http://www.findmypast.com> : 2012); citing Birth Registration, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, citing General Register Office, Southport, England.

## David and Lydia (Watts) Lewis Family

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### Sources: (con't)

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- 7 "England and Wales Marriage Registration Index, 1837-2005," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2DP5-XF9> : accessed 19 May 2015), Alice Lydia Lewis, 1876; from □England & Wales Marriages, 1837-2005, □database, findmypast (<http://www.findmypast.com> : 2012); citing Marriage, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, General Register Office, Southport, England.
- 8 1871 census.
- 9 Ancestry. England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973.
- 10 Ancestry.com. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
- 11 1911 census; England & Wales marriages 1837-2008, FindMyPast.
- 12 England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007.
- 13 England & Wales marriages 1837-2008, FindMyPast; censuses.
- 14 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; Marie Spencer Family Bible 5/27/97; 1881 Gloucestershire census
- 15 Certified copy of entry of marriage, GRO.
- 16 Blanche Spencer Cannon 11-23-66; Marie Spencer Family Bible 5/27/97


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## Jacob and Hannah (Howell) Spencer Family

<b>Husband:</b>		Jacob Spencer
	Birth:	Jan 10, 1798 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>2</sup>
	Marriage:	Jul 24, 1818 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>3</sup>
	Death:	Mar 07, 1880 in Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>
	Father:	Joel Spencer <sup>1</sup>
	Mother:	Ann Page
<b>Wife:</b>		Hannah Fowler Howell
	Birth:	Jan 31, 1797 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>5</sup>
	Death:	Apr 07, 1863 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>6</sup>
	Burial:	Apr 13, 1863 in Grave #24, Meth. Tabernacle, W-U-E, Glos., England (same grave as Rowland Spencer) <sup>7</sup>
	Father:	?
	Mother:	Mary Howell
<b>Children:</b>		
1	Name:	Ann Spencer
F	Birth:	Abt. 1822 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>8</sup>
	Marriage:	Jan 15, 1843 in The Tabernacle, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos., England <sup>9</sup>
	Death:	Feb 15, 1891 in Kingswood, Bristol, Glos., England <sup>10</sup>
	Burial:	Whitfield Cem., Kingswood, Glos., England <sup>11</sup>
	Spouse:	Job Hand
2	Name:	John Spencer
M	Birth:	May 05, 1823 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>12</sup>
	Marriage:	Dec 25, 1846 in Calvinistic Methodist Tabernacle, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos., England <sup>13</sup>
	Death:	1891 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>14</sup>
	Spouse:	Louisa Bennett
	Other Spouses:	Fanny Cross Wotley (Aug 05, 1878 in Baptist Chapel, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos., England) <sup>[15]</sup>
3	Name:	George Spencer
M	Birth:	Jan 15, 1826 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>16</sup>
	Marriage:	Oct 19, 1847 in Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>17</sup>
	Death:	Aft. 1892 <sup>18</sup>
	Spouse:	Sarah Perrin
4	Name:	Eliza "Elizabeth" Spencer
F	Birth:	Jul 27, 1828 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>19</sup>
	Marriage:	1853 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>20</sup>
	Death:	1919 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>21</sup>
	Spouse:	Philip James Ashmead <sup>20</sup>
5	Name:	Joseph Spencer
M	Birth:	Apr 05, 1831 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>22</sup>

## Jacob and Hannah (Howell) Spencer Family

6 M	Name: Joseph J. Spencer Birth: May 11, 1833 in Wotton-Under-Edge, England <sup>23</sup> Marriage: Feb 26, 1857 in Kings-road Chapel, Reading, Berkshire, England; Baptist Meeting House <sup>24</sup> Death: Jun 02, 1909 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>25</sup> Burial: Jun 07, 1909 in Baptist Burying Ground, Stroud, grave #137 <sup>26</sup> Spouse: Mary Ann White	
7 F	Name: Mary Spencer Birth: Nov 05, 1835 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>27</sup> Marriage: 1862 in Dursley District, Gloucestershire <sup>20</sup> Spouse: John Bryant	
8 M	Name: Rowland Spencer Birth: Sep 09, 1838 in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England <sup>28</sup> Death: 1861 in Gloucestershire, England <sup>29</sup> Burial: Nov 12, 1861 in Grave #24, Tabernacle, Wotton-Under-Edge (same grave as Hannah Howell Spencer) <sup>29</sup>	

### Sources:

- 1 Jacob's baptism record.
- 2 Censuses, baptism record. Ancestry.com, England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970.
- 3 Ancestry.com. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938. Original data: Gloucestershire Anglican Parish Registers. Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucestershire, England.
- 4 Death notice in Gloucestershire Chronicle, March 13, 1880.
- 5 Ancestry.com, Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813, Wotton-under-Edge 1777-1799. Original data: Gloucestershire Anglican Parish Registers. Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucestershire, England.
- 6 Tabernacle memorial transcription Carol O. got from Glos. Soc.
- 7 Wotton-Under-Edge Heritage Centre burial book, per Marcia Jewell, 3/15/2000; Carol Oldroyd.
- 8 Censuses, 1841, 1861.
- 9 Marriage cert.
- 10 Carol Oldroyd (she got from Michael Hand, Ann's gg-grandson).
- 11 Carol Oldroyd, 1999.
- 12 Ancestry.com.  
Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913, for John Spencer, Wotton-under-Edge, 1813-1829.
- 13 Mar. cert.; England & Wales marriages 1837-2008 Transcription.
- 14 Memorial info sent to Carol Oldroyd by Julian Rawes 6/28/1993.
- 15 Carol Oldroyd 1999; she has mar. cert.
- 16 Ancestry.com, Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913, Wotton-under-Edge, 1813-1829.
- 17 Ancestry, Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938, bishop's transcript.
- 18 Still living when wife died.
- 19 Ancestry.com, Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913, Wotton-under-Edge, 1813-1829.
- 20 Marriage Index.
- 21 Death Index.
- 22 Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970 for Joseph Spencer.



## Jacob and Hannah (Howell) Spencer Family

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### Sources: (con't)

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- 23 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9-6-79; Ancestry.com: England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970 for Joseph Spencer
- 24 Marriage entry, copy provided by Carol Oldroyd 2-16-99.
- 25 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9-6-79
- 26 (Date and number) Carol Oldroyd.
- 27 Ancestry.com: England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970 for Mary Spencer.
- 28 Ancestry.com. Web: Gloucestershire, England, Non-Conformist Baptisms Index, 1739-1987 [database on-line]. Original data: Gloucestershire Archives Genealogical Search. Gloucestershire County Council.
- 29 Wotton-Under-Edge Heritage Centre burial book, per Marcia Jewell, 3/15/2000.

Prepared By:

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## James and Esther (Payne) White Family

<b>Husband:</b>		James White
	Birth:	Abt. 1804 in Brewham, Somersetshire, England <sup>1</sup>
	Marriage:	Apr 02, 1826 in Thatcham, Berkshire, England <sup>2</sup>
	Death:	Jun 03, 1882 in 12 Thorn Street, St. Lawrence District, Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>3</sup>
	Burial:	Jun 07, 1882 in Cemetery Junction, Berkshire, England; Div. 16, Old Reading Cemetery <sup>4</sup>
	Father:	
	Mother:	
<b>Wife:</b>		Esther "Hester" Payne
	Birth:	Abt. 1804 in Newbury, Berkshire, England <sup>5</sup>
	Death:	Nov 07, 1884 in 14 Charles Street, Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>3</sup>
	Burial:	Nov 14, 1887 in Cemetery Junction, Berkshire, England; Div. 21, Old Reading Cemetery <sup>4</sup>
	Father:	
	Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>		
1 F	Name:	Mary Ann White
	Birth:	Jan 1827 in Newbury, Berkshire, England <sup>6</sup>
	Marriage:	Feb 26, 1857 in Kings-road Chapel, Reading, Berkshire, England; Baptist Meeting House <sup>7</sup>
	Death:	Oct 18, 1919 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>8</sup>
	Burial:	London Road, Stroud
	Spouse:	Joseph J. Spencer
2 M	Name:	George Beaumont White
	Birth:	Dec 18, 1828 in Newbury, Berkshire, England <sup>9</sup>
	Marriage:	Mar 09, 1852 in Kings Road Baptist Church <sup>10</sup>
	Death:	Nov 15, 1897 in Eastern Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>9</sup>
	Burial:	Nov 18, 1897 in Old Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>9</sup>
	Spouse:	Sarah McAllister
	Other Spouses:	Deborah McAllister (Nov 15, 1870 in St. Mary's, Reading, Berkshire, England) <sup>[10]</sup>
3 F	Name:	Matilda White
	Birth:	Sep 04, 1831 in Newbury, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
4 F	Name:	Esther "Hester" White
	Birth:	Mar 30, 1834 in Greenham, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	1855 <sup>10</sup>
	Spouse:	Robert Wright
	Other Spouses:	George White (1865) <sup>[10]</sup>
5 M	Name:	James White
	Birth:	Nov 19, 1837 in Greenham, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	1862 in London <sup>11</sup>
	Spouse:	Sarah Bowler <sup>12</sup>



## James and Esther (Payne) White Family

6	Name:	Charles White
M	Birth:	1841 in Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Death:	1842 <sup>10</sup>
7	Name:	Joseph White
M	Birth:	1843 in Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	Feb 23, 1867 <sup>10</sup>
	Death:	Jul 22, 1925 <sup>10</sup>
	Burial:	Old Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Spouse:	Mary Clift
8	Name:	Ellen White
F	Birth:	1846 in Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Death:	Sep 29, 1899 <sup>13</sup>
9	Name:	William White
M	Birth:	1851 in Reading, Berkshire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	1871 <sup>10</sup>
	Spouse:	Fanny Panton
	Other Spouses:	Fanny Sadler (1891) <sup>[10]</sup>

### Sources:

- 1 Date, age at death; location, censuses.
- 2 Parish register per Susan Biggin 6/10/07; IGI, Thatcham, Berkshire, parish registers.
- 3 Death certificate.
- 4 Susan Biggin, 6/10/07.
- 5 Censuses and death certificate.
- 6 Age at death was 92; Tyeth's Christmas 1916 letter said she would be 90 in January; Family Bible 11-8-80(?)/1881 census.
- 7 Marriage entry, copy provided by Carol Oldroyd 2-16-99.
- 8 Blanche Spencer Cannon 9-6-79
- 9 Susan Biggin, Susan Biggin, 11/6/07.
- 10 Susan Biggin, 6/19/07.
- 11 Susan White, email, Sept. 10, 2011; 1911 census.
- 12 Susan White, email, Sept. 10, 2011.
- 13 Susan Biggin, 6/19/07, quoting Baptist records.

Prepared By:

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## John and Elizabeth (Driver) Lewis Family

<b>Husband:</b>		John Lewis
	Birth:	Abt. 1800 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>1</sup>
	Death:	Jan 12, 1871 in Walkleywood, Horsley, Gloucestershire <sup>2</sup>
	Father:	
	Mother:	
<b>Wife:</b>		Elizabeth Driver
	Birth:	Abt. 1801 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>1</sup>
	Death:	Jan 25, 1870 in Walkleywood, Horsley, Gloucestershire <sup>3</sup>
	Father:	Giles Driver
	Mother:	Alice Stratford
<b>Children:</b>		
1	Name:	John Lewis Jr.
M	Birth:	Abt. 1826 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>
	Spouse:	Lucy ? <sup>5</sup>
2	Name:	Caroline Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1827 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>6</sup>
	Marriage:	1844 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>7</sup>
	Spouse:	William Blackwell
3	Name:	Charlotte Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1830 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>8</sup>
	Marriage:	Feb 27, 1854 in All Saints Church, Bisley, Glos., England <sup>9</sup>
	Death:	Mar 23, 1905 in Charlotte, Monroe Co., New York <sup>9</sup>
	Burial:	Riverside Cemetery, Rochester, Monroe Co., NY <sup>9</sup>
	Spouse:	Joseph Blackwell
4	Name:	David Lewis
M	Birth:	Abt. 1832 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Marriage:	Jul 09, 1850 in Church, Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>11</sup>
	Death:	Jan 21, 1910 in his home, Horns Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>2</sup>
	Spouse:	Lydia Watts
5	Name:	Alice Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1833 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>12</sup>
6	Name:	Eliza Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1835 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>13</sup>
7	Name:	Elizabeth Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1837 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>14</sup>

## John and Elizabeth (Driver) Lewis Family

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8	Name:	Harriet Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1840 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>

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9	Name:	Sarah Ann Lewis
F	Birth:	Abt. 1842 in Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>15</sup>
	Marriage:	1859 in Stroud District, Gloucestershire <sup>16</sup>
	Spouse:	Charles Cook <sup>17</sup>
	Other Spouses:	Elishah Barrett

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### Sources:

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- 1 Censuses.
- 2 Death certificate
- 3 Death certificate.
- 4 1841 census.
- 5 1851 census.
- 6 Baptized in July 1827. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 7 England & Wales marriages 1837-2008.
- 8 1841 and 1841 censuses. Baptized June 13, 1830. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 9 Mary Ward, 1/1/2000.
- 10 Censuses. Baptized April 15, 1832. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 11 Marriage certificate.
- 12 Baptized Nov. 17, 1833. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 13 Baptized Dec. 6, 1835. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 14 Baptized Aug. 27, 1837. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 15 1851 census. Baptized Jan. 2, 1842. Ancestry. Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- 16 FindMyPast: England & Wales marriages 1837-2008.
- 17 Elizabeth Lewis death certificate; England & Wales marriages 1837-2008 (FindMyPast).

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## Samuel and Eleanor (Buckland) Watts Family

<b>Husband:</b>		Samuel Watts
	Birth:	Abt. 1793 in Melksham, Wiltshire, England <sup>2</sup>
	Marriage:	Nov 09, 1815 in Melksham, Wiltshire, England <sup>3</sup>
	Death:	Nov 17, 1872 in Bisley Old Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>
	Father:	William Watts <sup>1</sup>
	Mother:	
<b>Wife:</b>		Eleanor Buckland
	Birth:	Abt. 1798 in Melksham, Wiltshire, England <sup>5</sup>
	Death:	Dec 26, 1867 in Slad, Painswick, Gloucestershire, England <sup>4</sup>
	Father:	
	Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>		
1	Name:	Joseph Watts
M	Birth:	Abt. 1817 in Melksham, Wiltshire, England <sup>6</sup>
2	Name:	Samuel Watts
M	Birth:	Abt. 1819 in Melksham, Wiltshire, England <sup>7</sup>
	Spouse:	Mary Ann ?
3	Name:	Harriet Watts
F	Birth:	Abt. 1824 in Calne, Wiltshire, England <sup>8</sup>
4	Name:	Lydia Watts
F	Birth:	Abt. 1827 in Calne, Wiltshire, England <sup>9</sup>
	Marriage:	Jul 09, 1850 in Church, Bisley, Gloucestershire, England <sup>10</sup>
	Death:	Nov 08, 1922 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England <sup>11</sup>
	Spouse:	David Lewis
5	Name:	Mary Ann Watts
F	Birth:	Abt. 1833 in Calne, Wiltshire, England
6	Name:	Stephen Watts
M	Birth:	Abt. 1836 in Calne, Wiltshire, England <sup>12</sup>
7	Name:	Ella "Emma Watts" Watts
F	Birth:	Abt. 1839 in Calne, Wiltshire, England <sup>13</sup>

### Sources:

## Samuel and Eleanor (Buckland) Watts Family

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### Sources: (con't)

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- 1 "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch.
- 2 1851 census, "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch.
- 3 Month and day: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "International Genealogical Index (IGI)," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:1:M2D1-V64> (member submitted); year: Ancestry.com. England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973.
- 4 Death certificate
- 5 1851 census.
- 6 "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J3RQ-PLB> : accessed 7 March 2016), Joseph Watts, 08 Jun 1817; citing Melksham, Wiltshire, England, reference it 28 PG 50; FHL microfilm 1,279,376.
- 7 "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N6S5-FRW> : accessed 7 March 2016), Samuel Watts, 11 Jul 1819; citing Melksham, Wiltshire, England, reference it 28 PG 81; FHL microfilm 1,279,376.
- 8 IGI.
- 9 1881 census; christened 1828--"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org>).
- 10 Marriage certificate.
- 11 Ancestry. England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007.
- 12 1841 census.
- 13 1851 Stroud census.

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Shanda, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1903

My dear little 9 year old Ralph  
your Beautifull letter came safe  
to Grama Ma & Grand Pa. Quite a treat,  
however came for to Loan to chicken  
out of 80, well it had better be  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  the Chickens than have been half  
the letter by Post birds,

I hope you will have more success  
next time, and also save all  
the rest lot of ducks

Now ~~also~~ hope you will have  
a happy & most New Year. Try  
and be the Best Boy that Pa has  
ask Pa to give you a Penny for  
me. Let me teach you a little  
prayer

Gentle Jesus, Meek & Mild,  
Look upon a little child,  
Kitty my Simplicity

help me Lord to come to thee  
with Grama Ma & Grand Pa's love

ps. Learn this  
and repeat it  
every night

Stroud, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 1903

My dear little 9 year old Ralph

Your beautiful letter came safe to Grand Ma & Grand Pa. Quite a treat. However came pa to loose 40 chickens out of 80, Well it had better be ½ the chickens than have been half Pa & Mas litter and big boys & girls.

I hope you will have more success next time, and also Save all the next lot of ducks.

Now we hope you will have a happy Xmas & New Year. Try and be the best boy that Pa has. Ask PaPa to give you a penny for me. Let me teach you a little prayer  
Gentle Jesus, meek & mild,  
Look down upon a little child,  
Pitty my Simplicity  
Help me Lord to come to thee

With Grand Ma & Grand Pas love

P.S. Learn this and repeat it every night.

June 28

3 Wrenchewick Houses

Bisterly Road

My Dear Strand

Children & received  
yours yesterday Morning  
I am sorry you have  
been so ill we will  
thank God for Restore  
ing Miries

I suppose your grand<sup>d</sup>  
child as com all rite  
I should like to know

I am Pleased to tell you  
I am well I have been  
in my garden this morn  
ing and pick Peas and  
and letes and onions  
and flowers



it is verry Destressen  
to here of what is goin  
on in france and  
I Pray God to stop  
the ravages of war  
and send Peace in  
our day ) I am told  
there is more to com  
who gett wounded then  
Brought from Bristole  
to the hospital and  
tutenety Church School  
Room Red X hospital  
the Poor Sailors are Bote  
Here By train then than  
are taken in Motor car  
to Red X Hospitals are  
at Nailsworth the one at  
standish Houses  
fiter up ~~for~~ purposes

when the Men are well  
they are sent on  
and a nother lot comes  
But it is Destressing  
to here of so money  
killed every Day  
Poor Mothers and children  
at home weeping for them

we finde all things  
Dear now i ~~had~~  
had to pay 16 for  
half a ton of coal  
we do not burn much  
I shall be glad to know  
when my grate ground  
child arrives

your affectionate  
Mother  
M A Spencer

Love from Aunt

all the folks are  
are pretty well at  
Present

and, oldest Boy  
John Avers as joined  
the army not to go to  
the front But to do  
clerical work he as  
Been Promoted several  
times He is Billeted at  
Winchester

Mrs Barbosa ~~is~~ with  
her Babee as Been in  
this afternoon to tea  
with us she also Directed  
the Envelope for me

fond love  
good Nite

June 28 [1915?]

3 Winchcomb Houses  
Bisley Road  
Stroud

My Dear Childeren i received yours yesterday morning. I am sorey you have been so ill whe will thank god for restoring meries[mercies?].

I supose your grand child [Arthur Douglas Spicer?] as com all rite I should like to know I am pleased to tell you I am well I have been in my garden this morning and pick peas and and letes and onions and flowers.

it is verey destressin to here of what is goin on in france and I pray god to stop the ravugs of war and send peace in our day, I am tolde there is moree to com whe gett wonded men braught from Bristole to the hotiple and tritinity church scool room Red X hospitel the pore selagers are brote here by train those than are taken in moter car to Red X hospitels one at Nailsworth one at Standish Houses fited up for purpess

when the men ar well thay are sent on and a nother lot coms But it is destressing to here of so maney killed every day Pore mothers and children at home weping for them

Whe finde all things dear now i had to pay 16 S for half a ton of coal whe do not burn much

Shall be glad to know wen my grate grand childe arrives

Your affectionate  
mother

M A Spencer

Love from Auntie [Fanny Cross Spencer, Mary Ann's sister-in-law, widow of John Spencer]

all the folks are are pretty well at present

Anie's oldest boy Jack Avens as joined the armie not to go to the frunt but to do clerical work he as been promoted several times he is bilited at Winchester

Mrs. Barbosa with her babee as been in this afternoon to tea with us she also directed the envelope for me

fond love

good nite

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
H. SPENCER  
TROUD, June 2nd, 1909.



IN LOVING  
MEMORY

In Loving Memory  
of  
MARY ANN SPENCER,  
Who entered into rest  
October 18th, 1919.  
AGED 92 YEARS.  
at the Baptist Burial Ground, Strand.



He giveth  
His beloved sleep.



Arthstone. Wis

Mar. 4. 1930.

Dear Alice and Matilda: -

Rec'd both of your very welcome  
letters and naturally was

quite surprised to get them

as you are becoming so cityfied

you can not write very

often eh! Oh well better late than

not at all. But kids don't get

so cityfied it isn't good for you.

Anyway as you don't wear your

black stockings you can send

them to me. I still wear them.

When ever I got any hats

~~the way~~ the way ~~from~~ this is

just a plain dear if you can

spare the \$4 will you try &

get some for me a little sooner

for age I give.

And Matilda you can please

get him a pr. of soft soled shoes

size 2. & a pr. of white stockings...  
and I suppose you have already  
got your new Easter Bonnets so  
send me one of your old ones.

I guess that will be all for this  
time. just a few items etc.

Well I suppose I have to tell  
you all the whoopee news are  
here. (lots?) - no, no.

1st. Claire Lee, goes with the  
Batterton, when ~~you~~ <sup>she</sup> isn't with P. Dickey  
or Ted Peterson - or any number of others,  
(real popular Bate is)

Myrtle Taylor, the Break  
was out with Dr. Mathews' son  
Sat night.

Week ago Sat night, was a big dance  
out to Boser place. every body drunk  
car, run in the ditch in front of our  
house, results car stayed there till

3.  
Sunday after noon, also a cap, glove & a  
handkerchief. By the way the car was  
Kageole's, and (Batty) Bates guy) was with  
him.

Howard Kallentack had to be carried  
in. to drunk to walk.

Howard Carlton & Art White got under  
the weather the other night, run  
in to old John's fever knocked it down  
of course that wasn't much of a job!

but they didn't stop there they journeyed  
on ~~to~~ into a large pile of box wood  
& finally stopped.

Oh Jim Alice you are losing your  
hold on Caravanagh. he is going steady  
with Marie Williams from Amberg.

Don't say Jimmy. he says he still likes  
you. Art White is still waiting  
for Mrs Harry Krummel. you know why.

Rorannah & Emil moved back to  
their own resort yesterday. Emil's  
hand is healing nicely.

Rorannah looks good & is quite fat.

paper is getting scarce.

~~Atchafalaya~~, wis

4 ~~Jan 3~~  
Oh yes. (tee hee) Guy Haley & Aaron  
Katz, gave a (juvenile) dance Sat night  
you know every body was supposed to  
be dressed like kids. but (no one was)  
The Mathis girl was the first one  
that sported a new gown in fashion  
short in front & a long tail behind  
well kids I guess I have to ring  
off a. I'll miss Taylor.

& Joe Joe is starting to cry. he is  
cutting teeth now. he weighs 20 lbs.  
so you see he has grown.

La Verne is sick with her teeth.  
took her to the D.V. yesterday. Ralph  
was just at home & he said  
they said she was a little better.

Oh yes. they only have meetings  
2 or 3 times a month at home now.

I suppose they won't have them at all  
pretty soon. I got a nice letter from

Galbut this week. ~~He~~ sure was glad to  
get it. Galbut letters all ways mean so  
much. I don't know about M. M.

I wrote to Alma a long time ago & asked  
her but she has never answered my  
letter at all.

Kids I just must stop. So for say so.  
I am well.

Love yours soon.

Just.

Tell Marie & Ray hello.



Athelstane, Wis  
Mar. 4 1930

Dear Alice and Matilda:—

Rec'd both of your very welcome letters and naturally was quite surprised to get them as you are becoming so citified you can not write very often, eh! oh well better late then not at all. But kids don't get [illegible] citified it isn't good for you. As long as you don't wear your black stockings you can send them to me. I still wear them when ever I got any /haha/

[Illegible] the way Jim this is just a plain dunn. If you can spare the ¢ will you try & get Joe Joe a little sweater for age 2 yrs.

And Mathilda you can please get him a pr. of soft soled shoes size 2. & a pr. of white stockings. And I suppose you have already got your new Easter Bonnets so send me one of your old ones. I guess that will be all for this time. Just a few items eh./

Well I suppose I have to tell you all the whoopee news around here. (lots!!)—no, no.

1<sup>st</sup>. Claire Lee, goes with [missing portion] Batterton, when she isn't with R. Sinkey or Ted Peterson or any number of others, real popular Babe[?] is)

Myrtle Taylor, the Break [illegible] was out with Dr. Matinchek's[?] son Sat. night.

Week ago Sat night, was a big dance out to Boesen place. everybody drunk car, run in the ditch in front of our house, results car stayed there till Sunday afternoon, also a cap, glove & a handkerchief. By the way the car was Ray Cole's, and Batty, (Babe's guy) was with him.

Howard Kallenback had to be carried in. to drunk to walk.

Howard Tarlton & Art White got under the weather the other night, run in to old John's fence knocked it down of course that wasn't much of a job! but they didn't stop there they journeyed on into a large pile of box wood & finally stopped.

Oh Jim Alice you are losing hold on Cavanaugh he is going steady with Marie Williams from Amberg. Don't cry Jimsy. He say he still likes you. Ruth White is still working for Mrs. Harry Krumrei. you know why.

Rosannah & Emil moved back to their own resort yesterday. Emil's hand is healing nicely.

Rosannah looks good & is quite fat.

Paper is getting scarce. [Written at top of 4<sup>th</sup> page, which has the beginning of a letter started Jan. 3 crossed out]

Oh yes. (tee hee) Guy Haley & Aaron Kaatz, gave a Juvenile dance Sat nite you know every body was supposed to be dressed like kids, but (no one was) The Mathis girl was the first one that sported a new gown in fashion short in front and a long tail behind Well kids I guess I have to ring off or I'll miss Taylor.

& Joe Joe is starting to cry. He is cutting teeth now. He weighs 20[?] lbs. So you see he has grown. La Verne is sick with her teeth. Took her to the Dr. yesterday. Ralph was just down home & he said they said she was a little better. Oh yes. They only have meetings 2 or 3 times a month at home now. I suppose they wont have them at all pretty soon. I got a nice letter from Gilbert this week. sure was glad to get it. Gilbert's letters all ways mean so much. I don't know about M. M. I wrote to Alma a long time ago & asked her but she has never answered my letter at all.

Kids I just must stop. Joe Joe says so.

Fare well,

Write soon.

Gert.

Tell Marie and Ray hello.

Written by Gertrude Spencer  
Athelstone, Wis.

G. Soldier's Farewell.

On a cold stormy night  
Standing in a driving rain.  
Stood a soldier and his mother  
Waiting for the coming train.

Ch.

Who - o - o - o the mournful whistle  
Drope out thru the stormy night  
and the tear drops fastly falling  
quickly dimmed the mother's sight.

Then the train came swiftly toward them  
and the soldier had to go  
When again he'd see his mother  
It was not for him to know.

Now the

In her arms the mother drew him  
as she kissed his dear sweet face.  
Ohs you're gone a long time darling  
no one else can take your place.

Once again the mournful whistle  
broke out thru the stormy night.  
Left alone the soldiers mother  
watched the train go from her sight.

Written by Gertrude Spencer.  
A. Helotane. Wis.

Let them play.

As I sit here alone in my house today.  
And look at my house all messed and scattered.  
I guess to you I must confess,  
I rather like my house a mess.

2) As dear old grandpa used to say,  
It's not dirty dirt so let them play.  
But Auntie sure would groan and fuss,  
Cause paper dolls make such a mess.

3) Your house can always be spick and span;  
When your girls have grown and your boys a man.  
But for me the days will most empty be.  
When my babes have grown and no men I'll see.

4) Oh horrors! how can she, now I know  
There are many a woman will surely say.  
But I would rather outside in the snow  
Play with my children so happy and gay.

5) Then sit in my house all prim and neat,  
And have my children playing out in the street.  
Because they mustn't say this about,  
Or laugh or sing or even shout.

6. With my goodness gracious Betty Ann,  
Mrs So and So's house is so spick and span,  
Always a ringing in their ears.  
Still their poor little eyes are filled with tears.

7) So with my children I'd rather see  
The things of life that are given free.  
Like the beautiful sunset in the west.  
Then any movie the world calls best.

8) I'd rather hear the birds sing,  
Then ever wear a diamond ring.  
For like the birds in the fall.  
Children grow up and answer life's call.

And again I say most empty 'll be  
my heart and house, when there's <sup>no</sup> ~~never~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~and~~ be.  
no finger marks for me to see  
and no little tracks of muddy feet,  
on my kitchen floor all scrubbed and neat.



Written by Gertrude Spencer  
A. thelstone. wis.

Write me a letter Darling.

When the silver moon is shining,  
O'er the ocean broad and blue,  
Darling girl my heart is longing  
For a letter dear, from you.

(Chorus)

Just a little letter darling  
It will mean so much to me.  
How my heart for you is longing  
Tho. I'm far across the sea.

2) Tho my darling, you have promised,  
That to me you'll faithful be.  
There's so many miles between us,  
Since I'm far across the sea.

3) When the silver moon is shining  
O'er the ocean broad and blue.  
Do you long for me my darling  
As I'm longing dear for you.

To Jim & Till.

Twice the week before Xmas  
my mind in a whirl.  
Was thinking and  
wondering,  
What to get for each girl.  
With actually no dollars  
and scarce any cents. <sup>sent.</sup>  
<sup>So it any wonder my photo are is</sup>  
So I thought in my mind,  
I just send a card.  
Perhaps in their throts.  
They'll not be so hard.  
When I tell them I ~~love~~ them  
and love them heaps more.  
It will keep them from  
Being disgusted and sore.  
So Happy Christmas  
Dear Jimmy and Tillie  
and Merry New Year  
To Elmer and Billie.  
And now I can hear  
She's sure flapped her lid.  
So mighty right.  
Be seeing you Bid.

Q Card is a card  
so ~~don't~~ do not complain  
whether its funny funny or plain.

my wishes dear silly  
are the same as before  
Happy birthday Happy birthday  
and then many more.

I haven't much news  
I leave that to Boudak  
She had a little so long & so nice  
she looked like the cat  
that had ate all the mice.

Orville crow has been sick with the flu  
that nasty little bug  
Has bit quite a few

Including the H. Spencers,  
Olsons & G. Lee  
I think for a heart  
that bug has a callous.

The Simms spent their bright new  
with friends from the east  
who live over Olga Rose way

over

The Ericksons too had a letter  
they say.  
From Lilly who now lives far far away.

The rest of the friends are maddling well.  
Excuse all the foolishness  
I have no more to tell

Happy ~~Hay~~ Birthday  
Love Gertrude.

## *COUSINS IN MYRTLE CREEK*

*By Gertrude (Seehawer) Spencer  
Oakland, Oregon  
April 1948*

For quite some time we had been thinking of going to Myrtle Creek to see if we could find Momie's cousins. So one Sunday after noon Ralphie, Elaine, the girls and I decided we would go, and as we were getting ready, Bob & family came and wanted us to go on a picnic. So I told Bob what we had planned to do, and Bob said, O.K. by me, let's go.

Nothing new of much interest to see on the way cause we had all been over that road before. We got to Myrtle Creek about 4 o'clock and I guess we asked most of the people there if they knew George Gates or Ray Gormley, including the city cop, but no soap. Finally Bob looked in the telephone directory and almost the first name he saw was George Gates, well he called and a cheerful voice ans. him and told him George was in town working at the veneer plant. So Lyle & Ralphie went and found George. But the joke on me was, that Vivian had said I resembled Georgie, and when they came back to the car, they said Georgie looked like Ruben Walgreen. So now I know who I look like.

Well, then we all went down to the plant and Georgie was very glad to see us, and took us all thru the plant. We also went thru the plant where the veneer is made. It is quite a large plant, and really interesting to see.



*Gertrude Spencer, George Gates, and Bob Seehawer*

Ralphie took some pictures of George, and of George with the rest of us. And after leaving George with the promise to go down to his place which is 4 miles out of Myrtle Creek, and see Florence we started on our way again.

We drove out of town about a mile, came to a nice clear creek, and decided we would eat our picnic supper there. Was already about 7 o'clock so hunger was beginning to demand refreshments. After spreading out our good old Wisconsin picnic lunch<sup>1</sup>, every body was soon busy eating and enjoying the lunch and as always when we gather together on an excursion started wishing that our dear ones back in Wisconsin could be with us.

Well the old sun was beginning to drop behind the mountain so we had to pick up our picnic things and be on our way if we were to see Florence and Ray Gormley who by the way lives right next to George's place. We were all watching the names on the mail boxes, so had no job to find Ray's place. When we got there there was a woman working out in the yard, and Ralphie walked up to her and asked her if Ray Gormley lived there. She simply called Ray to the door and never spoke another word. Ralphie told him who we were and he sure took his own good natured time about coming out to the car where the rest of us were. Surely showed us very plainly he didn't care anything about us. (Period.) So naturally we did not waste much time there, and drove on a little ways to Georgie's place.

Oh boy! What a different reception we got there, Florence was out on the porch hollering a greeting to us before we even got to the house. Asked us in right away, and said she was so glad to see us. She is a pretty little fat lady, and has the prettiest dimples. She speaks with a decided southern accent. She wanted to know all about Momie and the rest, and wishes Momie could come out here so she could see her. Oh yes, I must not forget, while here we had a grand drink of clean clear spring water. This was extra special after drinking the water we have in Oakland.

Georgie has a cute little house, and is building more rooms on to it. He also has a fruit orchard, has a couple cows & two horses, one named Diamond, and one Queen. Also two ducks, named, Waddles and Wobbles.

We had a most enjoyable visit with Florence for about an hour, and after promising her to try & go down there again we started for home. Nothing special on the way home either. Got home about 10 o'clock, and then after a few grumpy remarks about the Ray Gormley's we all went to bed. So ended our first trip of 1948.

Bob has his own little version of R. G.

Transcribed by Laurel Spencer Busch, July 1999
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<sup>1</sup> Oregon's picnic lunch consists of potato chips, crabs, pop & cookies.



## SHORT CUT TO CRATER LAKE

**By Gertrude (Seehawer) Spencer**  
**June 13, 1948**

Bob's family, Brigg's and all of us except Ber & Joe left Oakland 8 o'clock Sunday morning for a trip to Crater Lake.

We decided to take a short cut on a county road. (Beware of county roads.) At Glide see where two rivers come head on together. This is supposed to be the only place in the world where this another master piece of the great Master is known.

Continuing on our way we followed the North Umpqua River. The road follows along the river for miles. No one can describe with mere words the grand beauty of this wild swift rushing river. It has many miles of beautiful tho treacherous looking rapids and falls.

We passed the Ranger Station at Steamboat. Did not see any sign of life around there not even a digger squirrel. And from there on you would see such signs as, Dog Mt., Thunder Mt., Panther's Leap, etc. but no sign of any one living in that part of the country tho there are ranches back in those rugged mountains.

As you wind your way higher ever higher up the mountain, and glancing from the windows a couple of feet from the side of your car, on one side there is a sheer drop of hundreds of feet to the raging river below. This too is for miles. And then as you continue to ever climb higher the road in places is just wide enough for a car to pass over. On the one side the waters of the Umpqua are lapping against the side of the road. And on the other so close you could scarcely open your car door a mighty rock cliff many feet high towers above you. Soon you are over this part of the road.

as you "keep winding up the Mountain  
have to go around many sharp hair  
pin curves. ~~and~~ which we could see  
the last car behind us. (Buck's car)  
in front of us. the road is like this.  
~~Buck's car.~~ and all the time you <sup>are</sup> ever  
~~your car.~~ going higher after what seemed  
many miles we came to Eagle Rock Park.

Truly is a beautiful wild place. We picked some of Oregon's most beautiful flowers along the road here, and took some pictures of Eagle Rock. This is a great cliff of colored rocks along the bank of the river. Truly it is rightly named for I am sure nothing but the King of birds could make their home there. This cliff towers way above the tops of the great fir trees, and apart from the solid wall of rock stands like sentinels three separate walls of rock. One wonders how many seasons they have seen come & go.

I am sure the Indian must have had a legend about these grand old fellows. Well tho we all loved to look at the scenery here knew we must go on. Soon after this the road commenced to get

muddy in places with terrible wash outs on the side. It wasn't very long till we came to a place where we had to push the cars thru.

On one side was a wash out and a couple hundred feet drop down to the river, and the other side a sink hole. Bob's car & Leonard got thru and then Nig tried it, couldn't make it so started backed up for another try and came within six inches of going over the side. Then he tried it again slow and all the men pushed so he got up.

And now it was Harry's turn. The other cars had churned up the road worse than ever, and Harry's car being light behind he just slid all over & nearly went cross ways over the bank. Well he had to back up again too. And then Ralphie, Nig, Bob, Lyle, Ralph & all stood on the edge just room to stand and Harry drove real slow over and they all pushed against his car so it wouldn't go over the cliff, and he made it. Well after all the women & kids got back in the cars again we started on, always climbing higher.

Wasn't long till we came to another bad place, had to repeat and push the cars thru gain. This happened 3 times and when we came to the 4th place knew we could never get thru. So the boys all walked about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile further and road was worse so they came back & we decided to turn around and go back. The timber here was very large and we found some of the most peculiar yet beautiful flowers I have ever seen. Bob picked one for Dean. Dean loves flowers so much. Twas while we were up here, Leonard says we are up pretty high & Bob says yes, we will have to bow our heads to let the moon pass over.

After we got the cars turned around and started back, had no more trouble even got thru those bad places with out pushing but could see much more how bad those washouts were. One never knows how far the road is under mined in those wash outs.

We were soon back to Eagle Rock, and as it was 2 o'clock decided we would eat our lunch there. Leonard had bro't their camp stove and we soon had the weiners & coffee on cooking. It wasn't but a short time and the grand aroma of coffee was mingling with the piney odor of the fir trees. Well to tell you that the table groaned with the load of food upon it is putting it mildly, but it wasn't very long till we were all practically groaning with our overloaded stomachs. Bob said, he couldn't remember when he had ate a meal that tasted so good. After eating we sat around, chewed the fat. Some spread the blankets out and took a nap. Kids scurried all around like rabbits and then played ball.

Marie, Irene, Mrs. Briggs, Gert and I all gathered some odd plants & vines & bro't home & planted them. [Ed. Note: Flowers blooming in August 1999 included dame's rocket, Queen Ann's lace, chicory, something like foamflower, perennial sweet peas, and yellow ones with star shapes.]

We sure had a real old fire side chat and enjoyed every minute spent there. All were reluctant to leave but knew we must, so after much persuasion finally got the youngsters and oldsters and in betweensters in the cars & proceeded on our downward way.

After we got back almost to Glide stopped and had pop & potato chips and then came on home. Got home about 9 o'clock. Bob's stayed and had lunch & coffee, and tho we were disappointed that we didn't see Crater Lake all were glad for the beautiful grand country we had seen, and hope to be able to make a trip later this summer to Crater Lake yet.

Transcribed by Laurel Spencer Busch, July 1999
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Sat.

early 1965

Dear Laurel,

Sorry, I haven't got your always welcome letter answered sooner, but haven't felt so good.

I hurt my back when I was in Rochester, and it never got any better, and then I fell on the ice

flat on my back and really fixed it up proper. Well Thurs. I went to a chiro at Marinette, one that Ruby Carlton goes to,

He helped the pain in my chest quite a lot, but my back still pains a lot. But it has been hurting so long that I'll need more adjustments, plan to go in again Monday. Sure hope that will fix it up. Cause I can't hardly do anything the way it is now. Well that's enough about me. Hope you are all O.K. and no more measles.

I am sending all the names I know Laurel, you can arrange them, the way they are supposed to be. Last Sunday Marie Spencer came and got me in the afternoon and took me to their place. Aunt Ethel and Edwin & June and their boy were down from Marquette we had a real good visit. Edwin & June ~~planned to go out~~ to Oregon this summer.

Did you folks hear Linda has a baby girl, named her Valeria Dianne.

I just know Jody's baby is real cute and I am sure you enjoy her too.

Grand Jim's leg isn't any better.  
She was in to the Dr. yesterday again.  
She has to go once a week so they  
can watch her blood, as the drug  
she takes destroys the white corpuscles.  
So far it is all right.

Other wise she is very weak and hardly  
eats anything. you can let Mommie + Daddy  
read this too and I will write Mommie  
later. I was glad for her letter too.

Oh yes, about relatives in Germany. Have  
Cousins. Hans + Greta Schauer, (Swiss)  
Hans is married has 2 children. Lisalotte  
and Ulrich. Greta isn't married.

and they also have a brother Kurt.  
I hope these names help you out Laurie.  
at last the snow is starting to melt  
some here.

well Laurie dear I don't have any  
interesting news to write  
and I want to get this mailed to day.  
so will say bye now.  
love to all  
Gram.

Oh yes. I did get the check for my  
birthday I thank very much,  
I thought I had mentioned it to Daddy  
when I talked to him on the phone.  
Sorry <sup>But</sup> I really <sup>did</sup> appreciate it.

of our daddy side on the Spencers.  
Joseph ~~Spencer~~ Spencer -  
Mary Anne -  
Ther children.

Jacob  
John  
Opey  
Lyeth  
Annie  
Joseph Syndal - Bud's grandpa  
Sarah Eleanor Lewis - Bud's grandma  
Ther children. Florence Anna Louise  
Walter Harry Beaumont  
Millieunt Mary Ann  
Albert  
Charlotte  
Kate Rosella  
Frank Syndal  
Ralph Edward  
Ethel Lillian  
Blanche Gertrude

your daddy side on the Seehawers.  
John Seehawer -  
Rose Kothe  
Ther children.  
Rudolph Seehawer  
Emil  
Reynold  
Augusta  
Amelia  
Mathilda  
Rudolph Seehawer Bud's grandpa  
Mary Ellen Boesen - grandma  
Ther children  
Gertrude  
Emil John Derritt  
Reynold - Harvey  
Marie Adella  
Rudolph Paul  
Mathilda Alice  
Glice Julia  
Carl Cecil  
Ralph Edward father  
Gertrude Seehawer - mother  
children -  
Ralph Cecil  
11-4-1919 Harry Edward -  
Adella Bernice -  
Mildred Elaine -  
Joseph Syndal -  
Alice Mary  
June Fae -  
Joan Rae -

I don't know Grandma O'Dials.

Mother -

father - Gormley -

as much as I can remember

the children were

Alice Adella

Mary

Elizabeth

Margaret

John

George

Alice A. Gormley

Charles Boesen

children

Harvey Bernard

Mary Ellen.

Alice Tappan Boesen

Tappan, I think his name was George

children

Rose

Clara

~~Rudolph Seehawer~~

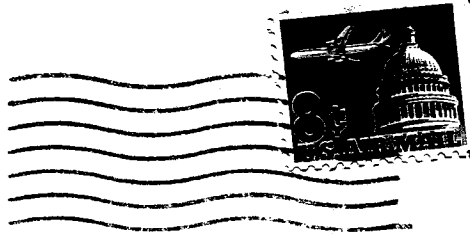
~~Alice G. Boesen~~

~~children~~

Tues. Apr - 20

Dear Laurel and all  
will just write a few  
lines to let you know  
I am flying home to day.  
My back is still giving me  
trouble, I have been in bed  
for over a week, I can't do  
anything to help them here,  
am really a nuisance so  
better go home for a while.  
Jim has been in the hospital  
for 2 wks again, but the Dr  
thinks she can go home  
to morrow. They have quit  
giving her the drug, and she  
will be able to give herself  
hypos.

H. Spencer  
Box 767  
Oakland, Ore.



Miss Laurel Spencer  
6 Brown St  
Henderson  
Nevada

Airmail



Mame is still here.  
Howard is taking me to Chicago -  
supposed to leave at 10-11  
The plane leaves Chicago at  
7.45 <sup>tonight</sup> gets to Portland at 9.55  
Joe is going to meet me there  
I'll write to Momie from home.  
oh yes Laurie Opey + Sybil  
are Daddy's grandpa's brothers.  
I think some of the cousins  
in Germany do speak English.  
I'll try to remember to send you  
their address.

bye now  
Love to all.

Uncle Ralph cut his finger and had  
to have 5 stitches in it

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## **FAMILY CINNAMON ROLLS RECIPE**

This recipe came from Aunt Nita, but my sister got the same one from Aunt Elaine.

2 pkgs. dry yeast

½ c. water

1 c. scalded milk

¼ c. sugar (white)

¼ c. shortening

1 tsp. salt

2 eggs

3 ½ - 4 c. sifted flour

Brown sugar

Cinnamon

Dissolve yeast in ½ cup lukewarm water. Allow to stand a few minutes. After milk has been scalded, add sugar and shortening. Cool to lukewarm. Add well beaten eggs. Add salt to sifted flour and add to milk mixture. Mix until dough is formed. Knead until smooth and elastic.

Cover and let rise until double in bulk, about 30 minutes. Roll out. Spread with butter, lots of brown sugar and cinnamon. Roll up—cut into 1-inch slices and place on baking sheet. Allow to rise about 15-30 minutes and bake in hot oven 400 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Ice rolls with powdered sugar icing as soon as they come from oven.

Notes:

From Aunt Nita: “I add raisins.”

From Aunt Elaine: The recipe came from “Myrt,” her sister-in-law I think.